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# The Washington Book Chronicle

AND

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

We shall endeavor in this little sheet to present our readers four times a year with one or two brief original articles on some topic of interest to collectors of books or autographs, students of history, law, or politics, and that much-appealed-to individual, "the general reader."

We shall also steal items of book news from other periodicals when it is possible to do so without infringing the copyright law, but in making these selections we shall try to give you something not already stale and in print a hundred times before.

"And yet words are no deeds,"

and the best way for you to know our plans is to let us send you the paper.

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## AN AUTOGRAPH ROMANCE.

One of the most delightful incidents in the life of a genuine collector (as well as one the most gratifying to his purse) is when he gets the advantage in some bargain with the despised second-hand bookseller, and buys from that depraved member of society at a merely nominal price some rarity long coveted and searched for, or when he is presented by some Philistine friend with a treasure dear to his sight, but hoped for in vain. An instance of this latter kind has recently become known to us, and is worth relating to those who are interested in autographs. The fact that a specimen of the handwriting of Thomas Lynch, jr., one of the signers to the Declaration of Independence, is extremely rare, and almost impossible to secure even at a high price, is well known to collectors, but that the public generally is ignorant on this point is well proved by the sequel.

A well-known collector in this city has long desired to secure a specimen of Lynch's chirography to add to his set of "Signers." The other day he happened to mention his wish, casually, to the son of a gentleman lately deceased, who had been a life-long lover of books, pictures, engravings, autographs, etc., and who had formed quite a valuable collection. The son replied that he thought, perhaps, a specimen might be found among his father's papers, and that he would make a search at the first opportunity. Shortly after, in going through the contents of an old bureau, he came across a complete letter in good order with the wanted name, "Thomas Lynch, jr.," at the end. It was duly presented with the compliments of the owner to the overjoyed collector. What the emotions of the latter were we cannot say, and must leave them to the imagination of those select few who have had the extreme felicity of being placed in a similar position. We surmise, however, that when the donor was informed of the true value of the letter, a few days ago, there was wailing and gnashing of teeth.

## CONSULAR REPORTS.

The State Department is doing a most valuable service to the country in publishing the "Consular Reports." These are issued once a month, and consist of official reports made by United States consuls in all quarters of the globe upon subjects of a commercial and political character. Up to the present time just one hundred numbers have appeared, making twenty-seven volumes, besides a volume on Cattle and Dairy Farming in all parts of the world, profusely illustrated. The first edition of this number met with such demand that a second edition has been ordered by Congress.

"Painting is the intermediate between a thought and a thing."—Coleridge.



## THE FIRST INAUGURATION.

Apropos of the coming centennial celebration of the first inauguration of Washington in New York, 1789, we copy below an account of the ceremony as described by an eye-witness. The writer was Senator William Maclay, of Pennsylvania, who left in his Journal many interesting descriptions of notable events which occurred in the critical period of our history, 1789-'91. He sat in the first Senate and recorded with some fullness its proceedings at a period when the sessions were held with closed doors, and when no records of the debates were officially kept. Among the questions discussed were the formal title for the President of the United States, the power of removal from office, the doctrine of a protective tariff, location of the permanent seat of Government, jurisdiction of the Federal courts, etc. There are also narrations of interviews with Washington, of Presidential dinners and State ceremonies in those early days, criticisms, anecdotes, and sketches of various well-known public men, all written in a piquant and charming style, reminding one of the manner of Pepys. The Journal was printed in a small edition at Harrisburg in 1880, and is comparatively unknown.

At the time of the inauguration Congress sat in Federal Hall, on Wall street, opposite the head of Broad street. An open gallery adjoining the Senate Chamber had been selected as the place whence the ceremony of taking the oath should be seen by the curious people outside. Here follows the extract from Maclay's Journal:

"The President advanced between the Senate and Representatives, bowing to each. He was placed in the chair by the President of the Senate; the Senate, with their President on the right, the Speaker and Representatives on his left. The President of the Senate rose, and addressed a short sentence to him. The import of it was that he should now take the oath of office as President. He seemed to have forgot half of what he was to say, for he made a dead pause and stood for some time to appearance in a vacant mood. He finished with a formal bow, and the President was conducted out of the middle window into the gallery, and the oath administered by the Chancellor. Notice that the business was done was communicated to the crowd, who gave three cheers, and repeated it on the President's bowing to them. As the company returned into the chamber, the President took the chair and the Senate and Representatives their seats. He rose and all arose, and he addressed them.

\* \* \* \* \*

"This great man was agitated and embarrassed more than ever he was by the leveled cannon or pointed musket. He trembled, and several times could scarce make out to read, though it must be supposed he had often read it before. He made a flourish with his right hand which left rather an ungainly impression. I sincerely, for my part, wished all set ceremony in the hands of the dancing masters, and that this first of men had read off his address in the plainest manner, without ever taking his eyes from the paper; for I felt hurt that he was not first in everything. He was dressed in deep brown, with metal buttons with an eagle on them, white stockings, a bag, and sword.

"From the Hall there was a grand procession to St. Paul's church, where prayers were said by the Bishop. The procession was well conducted and without accident, as far as I have heard. The militia were under arms, lined the street near the church, made a good figure, and behaved well."

## THE LEFORT WASHINGTON.

One of the finest art productions of the past decade is the portrait of Washington, etched by Henri Lefort, of Paris. Mons. Lefort was commissioned by the French government to prepare this work, and when completed, in 1881, it was placed in the Paris Salon, and was there awarded the gold medal. The portrait is life size, and as a work of art is unsurpassed, the likeness of the great Stuart picture being faithfully reproduced, while the general effect is bold, grand, lifelike, and particularly striking. After the few copies required for the official purposes of the French government had been printed, M. Lefort obtained permission to make use of the plate, and issued a limited number of proof copies. While Col. Lowdermilk was in Paris during the past summer he made an arrangement with M. Lefort for these proofs on behalf of the V. G. Fischer Art and Stationery Company of this city, and that house has been for several months receiving subscriptions for the etching, about twenty copies having been delivered to subscribers in various parts of the country.

## PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIONS.

There will in a short time be issued a most valuable publication, entitled "Presidential Inaugurations," in which will appear all the inaugural addresses and historical incidents of each inauguration from Washington to Harrison. It will be a book of about 400 pages, illustrated with fine steel-plate portraits of the Presidents and public buildings. The work has been compiled and edited by Messrs. Thomas H. McKee and W. H. Michael.



## A RELIC OF JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

We have recently seen a relic of the author of "Home, Sweet Home," which was evidently so closely associated with him for many months that a description of it may be interesting to our readers. It consists of several books and portions of books bound together, all relating to Tunis and other portions of the Barbary states. The first 250 pages have been neatly inlaid, and the margins are in many places covered with Payne's notes and remarks. Then follow in the same fine, clear hand eighteen pages of closely written extracts from other works on the same subject; next is a copy of Robert Greenhow's "History and present condition of Tripoli," bearing on its title the inscription "To John Howard Payne, Esq., with the respects of Ro. Greenhow," and this is followed at the end with "Observations on the city of Tunis," London, 1786.

The whole volume shows that it was prepared for purposes of annotation, study, and research into all subjects connected with the countries of northern Africa, and it was doubtless the author's constant companion while living in that far-away land as consul from the United States.

## MISTAKING SIDES.

A Scottish advocate, who had drank rather too freely, was called on unexpectedly to plead in a cause in which he had been retained. The lawyer mistook the party for whom he was engaged, and, to the great amazement of the agent who had fed him and the absolute horror of the poor client who was in court, he delivered a long speech, directly opposite to the interests he had been called upon to defend. Such was his zeal, that no whispered remonstrance, no jostling of the elbow, could stop him in his mistaken proceedings. But just as he was about to sit down, the trembling solicitor, in a brief note, informed him that he had been pleading for the wrong party. This intimation, which would have disconcerted most men, had a very different effect on the advocate, who, with an air of infinite composure, resumed his oration. "Such, my lords," said he, "is the statement which you will probably hear from my learned brother on the opposite side in this cause. I shall now therefore beg leave, in a few words, to show your lordships how utterly untenable are the principles, and how distorted are the facts, upon which this very specious statement has proceeded." The learned gentleman then went over the whole ground, and did not take his seat until he had completely and energetically refuted the whole of his former pleading.

## NOTES.

—We are preparing a short list of law and other books of interest to the librarian and lawyer, and shall be pleased to send same to any address upon application.

—Mr. E. Concanen bound his wife in the following terms: "That she do not, after my decease, offend artistic taste, or blazon the sacred feelings of her sweet and gentle nature, by the exhibition of a widow's cap."—*Curious wills.*

—The Department of Labor will shortly have ready another of its valuable reports. This year the subject is "Working Women in great cities." It will be followed in a few months by a special report on "Marriage and Divorce in the United States."

—The preparation of a supplemental volume to Lanman's "Biographical Annals of the Civil Government of the United States" is now in progress. The original edition covered the first hundred years of our history, and the supplement will continue the work to 1889.

—The "Decisions of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of the General Land Office in cases relating to Public Lands," as published in yearly volumes, have met with a steadily growing demand, which shows their great value to all interested in the subject. Several of the volumes had run out of print, but new editions of these are now ready, and complete sets as well as odd volumes can be procured.

—Mrs. M. S. Lockwood, a graphic and versatile writer of this city, has prepared the MS. for a book soon to be issued under the title of "Historic Homes of Washington." A large amount of interesting new matter has been gathered, and the illustrations have been prepared with great care and taste. It will prove a most desirable volume for public and private libraries, as well as a worthy souvenir of the national capital.

—A lawyer sitting in the Ebbitt House last night said: "I have been reading in the New York Tribune accounts of the bright things said by members of the New York bar. They are mighty good, but I do not think any of them can compare with the flashes of wit gotten off by Governor Hoadly, who is himself now a New York lawyer. I was present during the great Hocking Valley suit in Columbus a year or so ago. Judge Burke was making a brilliant argument before the jury in behalf of the defense, and used this expression: 'My friend, Judge Hoadly, says this is a case of deliberate stealing. Now, I am probably not as good a judge of stealing as Judge Hoadly.' 'No,' interrupted Hoadly like a flash, 'not as good a judge, but a better practitioner.'"—*Washington Post.*



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{ Vol. I. No. 2.

## RARE BOOKS IN 1888.

In a recent number of *The Athenæum* Mr. J. H. Slater, in reviewing the book sales of 1888, says that they fall both in quality and in extent much below those of the preceding six or eight years. In his opinion this decrease may have been quite accidental, "but the question of a gradual absorption into the numerous public libraries now springing up all over the country is one that can not be overlooked." We add a few extracts from Mr. Slater's article:

"Early printed books relating to America are steadily increasing in value and should still increase. \* \* Art books are decreasing in value, the works of Ruskin, Hamerton, Turner, and a few others being exceptions, and it is predicted that they will fall still lower. Old English works which derive their interest from typographical considerations appear to be stationary; so are illustrated first editions of modern authors, such as Ainsworth, Dickens, Lever, and Thackeray, the probability being that these latter have at last reached the zenith of their fame and value. Old Bibles are, as usual, much sought after, but the prices paid are stationary. Books on witchcraft, magic, and kindred subjects realize high prices, and a few years hence will be difficult to procure at all. \* \* Sporting books never grow out of date, and, it may be added, never sell for less than they are worth. First editions of modern authors which are not illustrated—such, for instance, as the works of Byron and Scott—have, as a rule, been selling for a few shillings each, but a sharp upward tendency is clearly observable in them at last. They are still cheap and easily attainable, and will be valuable hereafter."

The following are some of the most notable items sold during the past season: The first edition of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, £25 10s.; *Pickwick Papers*, in the original parts, £12 10s.; Milton's *Paradise Lost*, first edition, 1668, £15; the *Charter and Laws of the City of New York*, New York, 1719, 35 pages, £75; the first edition of Burns, *Kilmarnock*, 1786, £111; Walton and Cotton's *Angler*, first edition, with fourteen leaves missing, £23; Lamb's *Poems for Children*, London, 1809, £35.

## PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS.

From the time of the union of the thirteen colonies to the present date conventions have been held for the purpose of framing state constitutions. In the case of the oldest states this course was pursued on the recommendation of Congress. In regard to later admissions into the union, Congress has prescribed the methods to be pursued in order to obtain admission; but in all cases a fundamental law or constitution is a prerequisite of statehood.

In a very large majority of cases the proceedings or journals of these conventions, and in later years debates and documents, have been printed, affording a vast amount of official information as to the construction or intent of portions of these instruments.

In many of the states the original constitutions have been repeatedly amended or entirely superseded by later instruments, involving the same formality of conventions, ratifications, etc. Not infrequently the work of a convention has been set aside by the vote of the people, and Congress has on several occasions failed to approve constitutions adopted by seceded states and territorial conventions antecedent to their proposed admission into the union.

The Journals, Debates, and Documents of these conventions, the accounts of local contentions transferred to Congress, and embodied in numerous memorials and petitions to and reports from that body, form contributions of the highest importance to the history of every state in the union.

Many of these publications are of the greatest rarity, in fact of some of them it has been found impossible to get any trace whatever. It is proposed now to publish the results of ten years' careful research by Mr. J. H. Hickcox of this city, who has collected upwards of two thousand titles, including editions of Federal and State Constitutions which have been



printed collectively or separately. The work will include also bibliographical accounts of the fundamental laws of the colonies, of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the proceedings of the Federal Convention of 1787 which formulated the Constitution of the United States, and the proceedings of these several state conventions called for the purpose of ratifying the same.

Mr. Hickcox is well known as an accurate and painstaking bibliographer, and the connection of his name with the work is assurance of its being well and thoroughly done. Should enough interest be shown in the work to warrant the publication it will be handsomely printed, with full collations and descriptions, and will, it is thought, make an octavo volume of about 200 pages. We invite all interested in American history, especially in its constitutional bearings, to co-operate with us in furthering the publication by sending us their names as subscribers, and by contributing titles of any books or pamphlets relating to the subject and coming within the above-named limits.

#### A DINNER WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The following graphic account of a dinner at General Washington's table in the early days of the republic is taken from Senator Maclay's Journal, from which we also extracted the account of Washington's first inauguration (see January number of the Book CHRONICLE):

"Senate adjourned early. At a little after four, I called on Mr. Bassett, of the Delaware State. We went to the President's, to dinner.

"The company were: President and Mrs. Washington, Vice President and Mrs. Adams, the Governor and his wife, Mr. Jay and wife, Mr. Langdon and wife, Mr. Dalton and a lady, perhaps his wife, and Mr. Smith, Bassett, myself, Lear and Lewis, the President's two secretaries. The President and Mrs. Washington sat opposite each other, in the middle of the table. The two secretaries, one at each end. It was a great dinner, and the best of the kind ever I was at. The room, however, was disagreeably warm. *First*, was soup; fish, roasted and boiled; meats—gammon, fowls, &c. This was the dinner. The middle of the table was garnished in the usual tasty way, with small images, flowers (artificial) &c.

"The desert was *first* apple pies, puddings, &c.; then iced creams, jellies, &c.; then water-melons, musk-melons, apples, peaches, nuts.

"It was the most solemn dinner ever I sat at. Not an health drank—scarce a word said, until the cloth was taken away. Then the

President, taking a glass of wine, with great formality, drank to the health of every individual, by name, round the table. Everybody imitated him—charged glasses; and such a buzz of health, sir, and health, madam, and thank you, sir, and thank you madam, never had I heard before. Indeed, I had like to have been thrown out in the hurry; but I got a little wine in my glass, and passed the ceremony.

"The ladies sat a good while, and the bottles passed about—but there was a dead silence almost. Mrs. Washington at last withdrew with the ladies. I expected the men would now begin, but the same stillness remained. The President told of a New England clergyman, who had lost a hat and wig in passing a river called the Brunks. He smiled, and everybody else laughed. He now and then said a sentence or two on some common subject, and what he said was not amiss.

\* \* \* The President kept a fork in his hand, when the cloth was taken away, I thought for the purpose of picking nuts. He eat no nuts, but played with the fork, striking on the edge of the table with it. We did not sit long after the ladies retired. The President rose, went up stairs to drink coffee—the company followed. I took my hat, and came home."

#### A NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

A general feeling of satisfaction must pervade the public mind in consequence of the action of Congress in making an appropriation for the establishment of a grand zoological garden at the national capital. The object is one of the highest importance, and must be so recognized by every thinking person. All sections of our land have become so rapidly peopled that many specimens of the animal kingdom have become rare, and some almost extinct. We may hope that the government officials will successfully preserve and propagate a collection of birds, beasts, and reptiles so comprehensive that the student of natural history will not be required to rely upon "geography pictures" for a knowledge of the interesting creatures which a few decades since were familiar as our domestic pets. Even now, when the scientist presents us with a "restoration" of some extinct native American animal, there is a tendency to regard it more in the light of a fancy as to what might, could, would, or should have been, rather than as a substantial reality. We drift away into the land of fable, and yet we are *certain* that America has an unwritten past as the home of the oldest civilization of the world—when nations mighty in numbers, great in ingenuity, grand in architectural and mechanical science, diversified in knowledge and pursuits, and



terrible in war, peopled the valleys and plains and hillsides of two continents, from the borders of the lost Atlantis to the icy fields of Northern Alaska. Not much of this is left—hardly enough to build more than a faith upon. A future age may know as little of us! But we should preserve at least specimens of the animal kingdom of our own times. We can not corral the vanishing red man; the cave-dweller has disappeared, and the cliff cities are deserted. Savage humanity must soon disappear from North America. No governmental resource can delay its certain extinction. But that part of the animal kingdom which is subject to man's domination can be and ought to be preserved. Therefore the idea of a great National Zoological Park presents itself as one in the highest degree commendable, and the National Capital, the finest city in America, will have been given an additional and a valuable attraction.

#### COMMODORE PERRY'S OLD BOOK ON NAVIGATION.

"Oliver H. Perry" is inscribed in ink on the sides of an old dilapidated work on navigation now in our possession. The name is neatly engrossed in the form of printed letters. The book itself shows many signs of use and study. The title page, and several leaves in the front and back are lacking, and it is much soiled and thumbed in places. The binding also has greatly suffered, one cover being entirely gone, and the other worn and broken. To repair this defect, the whole book was covered with a piece of coarse canvas, and it is on the latter that the name appears. It was from this book no doubt that the youthful midgy gained much of his naval education, and over it we presume he burned many a lamp of midnight oil.

It is a most admirable memento of our gallant officer, and curiously enough comes to light at a time to make it doubly interesting, for just one hundred years ago on the 7th of April, Perry, then a lad of fourteen, received his commission as midshipman.

THE rage for dramatizing all sorts of popular books has reached Washington, and we are informed that Mr. William E. Curtis, the versatile and enterprising correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*, is engaged upon the dramatization of that justly popular book, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be adapted to the spectacular stage.

#### CLUBS.

The city of Washington has some very respectable, enjoyable, and prosperous clubs—some *notable*, among which may be mentioned "The Cosmos," "The Metropolitan," "The Army and Navy," "The United Service," "The Jefferson," "The Harvard." The most unique, we presume, is the "Six o'Clock Club," founded in 1887, "to promote good-fellowship, and study the gospel of relaxation." The requirements for membership are "to be a clubable fellow with one dollar in pocket." The programme consists of a dinner on Thursday at 6 o'clock, followed by ten-minute talks on some current topic or abstract question. The following is a deliberate and cold-blooded Declaration of Principles: No club-house, no dues, no debts, no fines, no constitution, no by-laws, no president, no usher, no bouncer, no salaries, no accounts, no defalcations, no long speeches, no parliamentary rules, no claw-hammer coats, no dudes, no personalities, no bores, no gambling, no preaching, no cant, no gush, no dead beats, no deadheads;" and we can knowingly assert that the assemblage of cabinet officers, senators, professional men, merchants, clerks, and bright people generally who attend the "Six o'Clock" is the best entertained company in the city.

#### ENGLISH JUDGES IN HENRY VI'S TIME.

From Fortescue's "Learned Commendation of the Lawes of England:

"I woulde ye should knowe, that the Justices of Englande sit not in the king's courts above iii howers in a day, that is to say, from viii of the clocke in the forenone til xi complete, For in the afternonnes these courtes are not holden or kept. But the Suters then resort to the perusing of their writings, and elsewhere consulting with the Serjeants at law, and other their counsaylours. Wherefore the Justices, after they have taken their refection, do passe and bestowe all the residue of the day in the study of the lawes, in reading of holy Scripture, and using other kinde of contemplacion at their pleasure. So that their lyfe may seem more contemplative than active. And thus do they leade a quiet lyfe, discharged of all worldly cares and troubles: And it hath never been known, that any of them beene corrupte with giftes or brybes."

THE checkbook used by the Confederate Quartermaster-General during the last days of the Confederacy was recently found among a lot of waste paper in a junk shop here in Washington, and formed the subject for an interesting article in *The Evening Star*. The largest check drawn was for \$900,000, and a foot-note on the stub indicates that \$15,000 was to be paid in coin, with a discount of 40 per cent. in consideration thereof.



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# The Washington Book Chronicle

AND

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## AN OLD VIRGINIA LEDGER.

We have recently come into possession of a curious manuscript account book or ledger which was in use in Virginia nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, and which throws no little light on the customs and social life in the "Old Dominion" in those colonial days. Quite an interesting article might be written after a careful examination of the various names and items recorded, but time and limit of space preclude more than a cursory view on our part.

From internal evidences we conclude the book to have been the property of one John Mercer, who must have been a man of means and position. He evidently resided near Fredericksburg and had connections and business relations with many persons in various parts of Virginia and Maryland. We notice many well-known names of "F. F. V.'s"—the Randolphs, Spotswoods, Fitzhughs, Dinwiddies, Tayloes, Wythes, Lees, Ruffins, Keiths, Custis, Blands, etc.—and accounts with "Capt. Augustine Washington" and "Lawrence Washington, Esqr.," and "Col. Henry Lee." Many of the entries are for fees in lawsuits, and for legal advice, and there are six pages, closely written, in which is detailed an "Account of causes depending in the General Court and what part of the Fees I have received" from August, 1744, to December, 1745, including over six hundred cases. These we presume were for some public services in connection with the court, as it does not seem possible he could have had so many cases of his own in such a short period. One of the most interesting accounts is that headed "Negroes," in which is set down the prices paid for "Phillis," "Nan," "Nero," "Belinda," "Truelove," "Ajax," "Oroonoko," "Dido," "Cupid," "Juno," and the expenses incurred on their account for clothing, food, sickness, etc., while on the contra side are entered the sums which he derived from their labor or sale. There is also a curious register of the children born to the slaves.

We can glean here and there some information as to wages paid in those days to artisans and laborers. For instance, "joiners" were paid then £4 a month for their services, and masons at the same rate; a plasterer, £5 11 sh. for thirty-six days' work, and a weaver 10 shillings for weaving 30 yards of cloth. A tailor was paid 18 shillings for making a frock and two pairs of breeches, and 8 shillings for two brown holland jackets.

There are numerous entries showing the prices of necessities of life, and of various luxuries, and his sons' expenses while at the College of William and Mary are entered in full.

Under the head of "Books" is evidently a complete and careful subject catalogue of his library, with the prices paid for each item.

The majority of the volumes are on legal topics, and no doubt represent a complete working library at that period; "Divinity" has a prominent place, and "Husbandry and Gardening," "Physick and Surgery," each have a large following, and there are, of course, the usual "books which should be found in every gentleman's library"—"Thomson's Seasons," "Pope's Homer," "Rollin's Ancient History," "The Spectator," "The Tatler," "Potter's Antiquities," "Plutarch," etc.—but we recognize only a few works which are to-day reckoned rare or valuable. The total cost of the library was £640, but it would now probably be considered dear at as many dollars.

If devoid of every other interest, this old relic would be of value as a specimen of handwriting, for the letters are formed in a handsome, bold, round style which can be read as easily as a printed page. It is a relief in these days of Spencerian flourishes and angular letters to meet such a specimen of the clear, decided penmanship.

The earliest private library of which we have a record belonged to Aristotle, B. C. 384-322.

## LORD BYRON AND "THE VAMPIRE."

The following characteristic letter of Byron's has never been printed, so far as we can learn, since its first appearance in the periodical to which it was addressed, and, having the opportunity to examine the original manuscript the other day, we thought it of sufficient interest to reproduce. It relates to the tale called "The Vampire," which was published in London in 1819 as a composition of Byron's, but which was in reality written by Dr. Polidori, who, after hearing the poet relate a somewhat similar story to the Shelleys, wrote it down from memory, and published it as Byron's. As his supposed work it excited very general interest at the time.

"SIR: In various numbers of your journal I have seen mentioned a work entitled 'Vampire' with the addition of my name as that of the Author. I am not the Author, and never heard of the work in question until now. In a more recent paper I perceive a formal annunciation of 'Vampire,' with the addition of an account of my 'residence in the Island of Mitylene,' an island which I have occasionally sailed by in the course of traveling some years ago through the Levant, and where I would have no objection to reside, but where I have never yet resided. Neither of these performances are mine, and I presume that it is neither unjust nor ungracious to request that you will favor me by contradicting the advertisement to which I allude. If the book is clever it would be base to deprive the real writer, whoever he may be, of his honors; and, if stupid, I desire the responsibility of nobody's dullness but my own. You will excuse the trouble I give you; the imputation is of no great importance, and as long as it was confined to the surmises and reports, I should have received it as I have received many others, in silence. But the formality of a public advertisement of a book I never wrote, and a residence where I never resided, is a little too much, particularly as I have no notion of the contents of the one nor the incidents of the other. I have besides a personal dislike to 'Vampires,' and the little acquaintance I have with them would by no means induce me to divulge the secrets.

"You did me a much less injury by your paragraphs about 'My devotion' and 'Chastisement of Society for the sake of religion,' which appeared in your messenger during last Lent; all of which are not founded on fact, but you see I do not contradict them, because they are merely personal, whereas the others in some degree concern the reader. You will oblige me by complying with my request of contradiction. I assure you that I know nothing of the work or works in question, and have the honor to be (as the correspondents of Magazines say) "Your constant reader" and very obedient servant,

"BYRON.

"To the Editor of

GALIGNANI MESSENGER, &c.,

"Venice, April 27th, 1819."

## THE ADVENTURES OF A LAW BOOK.

The dealer in new and old books has many experiences in the course of his business of the care and neglect, value and esteem, bestowed on books by their owners, and if one could trace the adventures of some books from the time they leave their fellows in the publisher's bin until they end their days at the paper mill, we believe it would prove an interesting and instructive study.

We remember one volume in particular which had an eventful career. It was a copy of Byles on Bills and Notes, which we had ordered from the publishers, and placed on our shelves to await an opportunity to start it on its educational mission. Before long a candidate for forensic honors carried it off, but soon sold it back to us, having, evidently, absorbed all the knowledge of notes he wanted, through the covers, if one could judge from the condition of the book, which to all appearances had never been looked into beyond the first few pages. Again we parted from it, and again it came back to us, this time, however, not without many indications of the struggles its owner had undergone to extract some of the lucid but superfluous statements. We did not keep it very long before another candidate presented himself to enter the lists, and many months after, in a small package of books which we received from New York, we found our old friend (we knew it by our private marks), looking very much dissipated, but enriched by valuable annotations, written on the margin in some sort of hieroglyphics, which our office boy called Cherokee, but which no doubt the learned annotator intended for stenography. On the fly-leaf he made a note of some personal expenses, such as: B. 15c., D. 20cts., S. & C. 30cts., which we believe to be when written in full Breakfast, Dinner, Supper and Cigar, a very commendable way to husband a very slender income, and a means which many famous advocates adopted during their early struggles. But to return to our book—it remained with us now a long time, so long, indeed, that we thought it had come to stay. Not so, however; a full-fledged practitioner, a visitor to our city (in search of pleasure or an office, we are not sure which) bribed us to part with it again; for, as he said, "A few *well-thumbed* law books, strike a client more forcibly with your ability than a shelf full of *new* volumes." We can hardly hope for another meeting with this great disseminator of knowledge.



## DATES IN OLD BOOKS.

It almost seems as if the printers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries took special pains to transform the dates of their books into mathematical enigmas. Some used Roman letters, others Arabic figures, and others still mixed the two together. The following is a table of such dates as would be likely to present difficulties to the average bookman, with translations into Arabic numerals:

VIII ou IX . . . . .	9	MCDXCIX . . . . .	1499
XXXX ou XL . . . . .	40	M cccc iCi . . . . .	1500
XXC ou LXXX . . . . .	80	MD . . . . .	1500
XC ou LXXX . . . . .	90	MCDCH . . . . .	1502
CCCC ou CD . . . . .	400	M.DXLIX . . . . .	1549
D ou Io . . . . .	500	MIO L ou MDL . . . . .	1550
DC . . . . .	600	M.D.VIL . . . . .	1554
DCCC ou CM . . . . .	900	∞ DLXVI . . . . .	1566
Mcccixij . . . . .	1463	∞ DLXX . . . . .	1570
McccLxxz . . . . .	1472	CIo IoL xxvi . . . . .	1576
Mccc7z . . . . .	1472	clololLXXX . . . . .	1580
Mccc. II et LXX . . . . .	1472	CIo Io XXC . . . . .	1580
Mcccxcx . . . . .	1480	CIo Io XXCI . . . . .	1581
MCCCcmjxxviii . . . . .	1488	∞ DXXCH . . . . .	1582
Miiic iiii x viij . . . . .	1488	MCCCCLXXXIII . . . . .	1583
MCD XCV . . . . .	1495	CIo Io xxvI . . . . .	1586
M. VD . . . . .	1495	∞ D XXCIX . . . . .	1588
MiiijD . . . . .	1496	CIo Io XX CIIX . . . . .	1588
Miiij . . . . .	1497	Mnxc . . . . .	1590
MIIID . . . . .	1497	CIoIoCC . . . . .	1700
MCCCCXviii . . . . .	1498	CIoIoCCLCIoDCCCL . . . . .	1750
MID . . . . .	1499	CIo Io CCIXCI . . . . .	1791
McdXciX . . . . .	1499	CIoIoCCC . . . . .	1800
McccclD . . . . .	1499	MDCCC . . . . .	1800
MCCCCXCViiij . . . . .	1499	clo.Lcccc . . . . .	1800

## CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

The imprisonment of the well-known London publisher, Vizetelly, for publishing an edition of Zola's books is generally regarded as an outrage. In some quarters, however, it is regarded as a triumph of morality. The prosecution was instituted at the instance of a society for the suppression of immoral literature, by an agent something like the American Anthony Comstock.

While quite ready to admit Zola's genius, we neither admire nor approve the use to which it has been put, and, in our opinion, the world to-day would not have been one whit worse off if his books had never been written. This is our deliberate judgment freely expressed. But there are others, many others, who think very differently. There are those who believe that Zola's repulsive realism is necessary to an effective treatment of certain phases of social life, and that his purpose is honestly reformatory.

Now, what should we do in the presence of this difference of view? Are we entitled to force our opinions on those who think otherwise? By no means. They and we have equal rights in the premises. Within the circle of our influence we shall discourage the reading of Zola's books, and to do so is quite within our privilege; but to contrive for their suppression by law would be to make our opinion the standard, to invade, on partial and oppressive grounds, the domain of personal rights, and to interfere with individual freedom.

This brings up the whole question of the censorship of the press. If a censorship is to exist, at what line shall its exercise begin? Clearly, a mere charge of immorality is not sufficient. If it were, almost all the poets, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dryden, Prior, Burns, Byron, Moore, and a host of others, as well as the works of popular writers of our own time, Amélie Rives, Mrs. Atherton, Laura Daintry, Edgar Saltus, and others, would be speedily suppressed.

It is evident, then, that the line of demarcation must be a broad line. Nothing is more fatal to a robust morality than a vexatious and minute insistence upon nice and narrow observances. It was her observation of variations in such observances that led Lady Mary Wortley Montague to say that morality is very much a matter of latitude. Nothing could be less true. The great moral distinctions are universal. St. Augustine said truth was what had been accepted at all times, everywhere, by all, and there is a sense in which the good and the bad are instantly and generally recognized. Both in art and literature there are broadly immoral productions universally acknowledged to be offensive both in matter and form. No one justifies them. No good is discerned in them, and there is no reason why they should not be suppressed. This is the province of a censorship of the press.

But where doubt exists, or there is a difference of opinion, liberty must prevail. Any other course would emasculate literature, without promoting morality. Dubious books are best left to the tender mercies of public opinion. Arbitrary treatment would be too much like rooting up the tares in the wheat field, and thereby destroying the wheat as well.—*Washington Post*, June 3.

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{ Vol. I. No. 4.

## A FICTION-MAKER OF TOKYO.

I have a Japanese friend who is a novelist, and to-night I sat and watched him decorating the fortunes of his heroine for a long time. His workshop has no Grub Street suggestions in it. Shall I describe it to you?

It is a little room, a very little room. "Six mats" is its Japanese measurement, and a mat is about six feet by four. It is full of the soft, dull light that pulses from a square white paper lantern; the low, bright wooden ceiling gives back a pale-brown gleam here and there. There is a silvery glint in the frail panelled walls, which I have learnt not to lean against; and in a warm grey-shadowed recess a gold Buddha crosses his feet and stretches forth his palms, smiling gently upon the lotus which he holds. In another recess stand the curious vessels of iron and clay and bamboo for the tea-ceremony.

\* \* \* \* \*

There was nothing in the room an hour ago except my novelist and his table and his tools and me. He sat on the floor in a flowing garment of brown silk lined with blue, his legs disposed comfortably under him. I sat there too with mine contorted under me.

\* \* \* \* \*

My friend's writing materials are as idyllic as his surroundings—his paper is delicately tinted yellow, with blue lines running up and down. His inkstand is a carved ebony slab, with one end hollowed out for water to rub his cube of India-ink in, and holds the four or five daintily-decorated bamboo brushes which are his pens. Naturally he does not write his novel, he paints it. Beginning at the end of the whole, at the left of every page and at the top of every line, straight down between the two blue parallels his small brown hand goes, with quick delicate dark touches from which are springing the woes of O-Mitsusan, or Miss Honey Sweet, and the heroism of Matsuo-san, or the Strong Pine Tree.

The depiction went on very evenly and quietly as I watched. There were no pauses in which my author gnawed his bamboo brush-end in a despairing effort to express a modern psychical complication which should equal love to the *n*th. He seemed to spin his novel, carefully but confidently, giving me the idea that he was doing it exactly as he knew it ought to be done, leaving virtues of style to the technique of the brush.

\* \* \* \* \*

In grace of outline, in naturalness of detail, and in truth of perspective, the illustrations approached highly conventionalized fashion-plates; nevertheless I recognized in them something human after the pattern with which other continents had made me familiar. In one a youth in a Derby hat, with the handle of his cane in his mouth, a New York youth drawn after the verisimilitude of tea-chests, gazed over a garden wall at a Japanese maiden of the regular *bric-à-brac* design gathering plum blossoms. In another a foreign lady—by her clothes—rode by in a *jinrikisha* with a muff in one hand and a teapot in the other, while a violent-looking two-sworded Samurai person made as rapidly after her as his dignity would let him.

So there we were in person. As we had incorporated ourselves into the national life, so we were incorporated *volens volens* into the national literature. The heathen intellect had taken the trouble to evolve serious ideas about the foreign resident and to print them—a liberty the foreign resident could in nowise resent unless he were acquainted with the Chinese alphabet.

This seemed to me to be reason enough for reciprocity—for one more effort to discern a little by the light that fell from the gracious golden face of Buddha in the shadowed recess. So I begged, as a beginning, to hear about the novel that was in process of picturing before me, and about other novels. My friend had been attached to one of the Japan-

ese legations abroad, and was therefore able, he said, to infuse "the interest of foreign affairs" into his work. His own wanderings in Europe and America were to form its base, and, in addition to O-Mitsu and Matsuo-san, "a noble young lady named Jane" would grace its pages—the final reward of virtue and perseverance on the part of the hero. The story would aim also to impart "some instructions" in the political economy of foreign parts. My friend was not acquainted with the analytic schools; he had not read George Eliot or George Meredith or Tolstoi or Daudet or Henry James. His idea was evidently to amuse his readers with a story and give it an instructive value to elevate its tone. As to the common novels, like the paper-covered thing I held, they, he assured me, were full of the exploits of the *samurai* of other days, of episodes ending in the *hara-kiri*, of the jealousies and intrigues of the professional *geishas*, and did not usually form an improving literary exercise. The text of this one, for instance, excited vain desires and discontent. I looked at it, and I thought the imagination might as easily be stimulated by a dado.

My novelists' "copy" seemed to me to be daintiness itself, yet he intended to have it duplicated "by an artist" before sending it to the publishers, the success of the book depending so largely upon its artistic forthbringing. Every word-picture he would have cut in wood, though this was an expensive way of producing it. I spoke of the binding. Oh, his public would not look at the binding.

What he told me of his publishing arrangements was delicious. "I pay the publisher myself," he said. "I do not mind losing by my own work, but I will not permit another person to make money by it. The true dignity of authorship does not allow that." I found it difficult to explain to him somehow that in our country the dignity or authorship demands competition among publishers—immediate returns and freedom from the risk of fickle public taste. I did not think he could be made to understand it.—SARA JEANNETTE DUNCAN, in the *Athenæum*, September 7.

**Lefort's Etching of Washington.**—In response to a general demand for a cheap reproduction of this famous work of art we have had prepared a handsome photograph of the artists' proof, reduced to a convenient size, and neatly mounted on card-board. Particulars of price, etc., will be found on our last page.

## ANCIENT "MACHINE" POLITICS.

One of the curious facts in regard to the condition of life among the "bread winners" of olden time, which Mr. Ward sets forth in his *History of the Ancient Working People*, is that the trade unions of that day brought forward candidates for office at the elections, and recommended them to public favor in much the same manner as the modern "machine" is worked in our present system of politics. We quote from Chapter XVI, on "Trade Unions:"

"Unions of fishermen, *piscatores*, existed in numbers at Rome, Ostia, Pise and other points on the sea and the mouths of the Italian streams. An account of the union of the *piscicapii*, published in the *Wiener Jahrbucher*, causes Orelli to remark that before elections for the *ædiles* and *dumvirs* in the municipal cities, the unions furnished members to be voted for as candidates to the municipal offices; and what is more strange, women, if it happened that there were any thought proper for the places. The inscription which records this fact was found among the ruins of Pompeii. Who can doubt the veracity of words inscribed on a tablet of marble, scrawled upon a wall a hundred years or more in use, and at last, in the awful eruption of Vesuvius, at whose foot it stood, overwhelmed, buried and lost to view under a thick stratum of lava for one thousand seven hundred years; then all at once dug out, delivered, and held up to the gaze of men now living, fresh as though just from the chisel of the *artifex signorum* who graved it for his brother unionist? Yet there it stands, its own monument for our blazing enlightenment to decipher. In modern political English it reads like some caucus slate of a New York ward Tammany club. Freely translated the inscription reads as follows:

(a) "Phœbus, together with his buyers, asks the people to vote for Holcon, who was formerly president of the union and for C. G. Rufus—two men nominated by us." (Meaning two of *our* men.)

(b) "Licinius Roman nominates and calls for the ballots of constituents in favor of Julius Polybius, for superintendent of public works."

(c) "The members of the fishermen's union make choice of Popidius Rufus, for member of the board of public works."

(d) "The international gold workers' association of the city of Pompeii demand for membership of the board of public works, Cuspis Pansa."

(e) "Sema, with her boys, asks that you work with a will at the election and insure success for the office of magistrate to Julius Simple. He is a man in the fullest sense of the word; a faithful servant of the people of Pompeii; a good man; worthy of assuming public affairs."

(f) "Verna, the home born, with her pupils in all right, and good faith, put Mrs. Capella to the front for a seat in the board of magistrates."

(g) "It is worthy that you work for P. Popid for member of the board of public works with might and will."

(h) "Fortune [probably a female member] desires the election of Marcellus."



## SOME PUBLISHING STATISTICS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Extract from a letter of Jared Sparks to J. C. Payne, of Montpelier, Va., brother of Mrs. Madison, dated November 7, 1836.

"The following statement will give you some idea of the extent of sales of books similar in character to Mr. Madison's.

Marshall's Life of Washington, 10,000 were printed—there were 7,000 subscribers and the whole edition was not sold till 1830, being twenty-five years. Jefferson's Writings, Boston edition—3,000 copies, printed six years ago, and are not nearly all sold. The first edition in Virginia was confined to the South. Washington's Writings now in press—the present sale is 4,000 copies, and the work has been in the market three years. I do not expect a sale of more than 5,000 or 6,000 in ten years. Life and Writings of John Jay, been published three years. The number sold I can not state positively, but my impression is that it is under 2,000."

The letter from which the above extract is taken is in explanation of Mr. Sparks' failure to secure in Boston a publisher for the proposed publication of Madison's Writings. He says that publishers looked somewhat coldly on the enterprise on account of the high expectations which the family was supposed to entertain of the profits in consequence of a clause in Madison's will appropriating \$12,000 of the proceeds of the volumes.

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### Ballade of Old Law Books.

"I am improving my legal knowledge, Master Copperfield," said Uriah. "I am going through Tidd's Practice. Oh, what a writer Mr. Tidd is, Master Copperfield."—*David Copperfield.*

The law books are standing in dingy array,  
They fill every shelf from ceiling to floor,  
Old guides to a silent and grass-covered way  
Which never a traveller now shall explore,  
Save delvers for antiquarian lore,  
Who painfully search where their treasures lie hid,  
In pages that else had been closed evermore,  
Forgotten for aye, like the wonderful TIDD!

Great BLACKSTONE is put up aloft, far away  
(The Whig, first edition, in calf, volumes four);  
The DOCTOR and STUDENT alike are at play;  
And PERKINS is now but a profitless bore.  
Old VINER'S ABRIDGMENT is over the door  
'Mid dust-begrimmed wines that fetch never a bid;

Even FEARNE ON REMAINDERS we vainly deplore,  
Forgotten for aye, like the wonderful TIDD!

Oblivion has fallen on the frequent *ca. sa.*,  
And Cursitor Street is untrod as of yore;  
We turn not the leaves of LES TERMES DE LA  
LEY,

Or these ancient reports, ah, many a score,  
Of a dulness as deadly as dread hellebore;  
Of their Latin and law we are joyfully rid.

Let them stand as we peacefully slumber and snore,  
Forgotten for aye, like the wonderful TIDD!

### Envoy.

How quickly the summers and winters are o'er!  
They linger not now as in childhood they did.

Soon we shall be treading yon shadowy shore,  
Forgotten for aye, like the wonderful TIDD.

—*The Lays of a Limb of the Law.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 1890.

{ Vol. I. No. 5.

## STAMPS WITH A HISTORY.

There have lately come into the possession of the national museum two articles which are of great interest to every American, and of particular value to every student of American history. These are nothing more or less than two of the original stamps engraved in England for use in the American colonies in accordance with the provisions of the stamp act of February, 1765. This was the act which caused such an uproar among the colonies and which was one of the main causes of all the trouble immediately preceding and leading up to the revolution. It was intended that the revenue to be raised by the stamp act should come from the sale of stamped paper, and stamps which were required to be placed upon all paper used in commercial transactions, suits at law, publications, transfers of real estate, inheritances, and marriage licenses.



THE STAMPS IN THE MUSEUM.



Thus a tax was placed upon the colonies without their consent, and the money derived from this tax was to be used for the support of a standing army, which in turn was expected to enforce the payment of the tax. Apparently no Englishman dreamed of any resistance to the act, and it is said that Grenville, the minister under whom the act was passed, afterward made the statement that he would have staked his life on the obedience of the colonies to the measure. Of course, however, there was a decided resistance, as every American knows, which led to the repeal of the act in March, 1766, under the Rockingham ministry. The stamps themselves were handsomely

engraved, and ran in value from a half-penny up to several pounds. The two stamps now in the museum are of the value of a half-penny and penny. They are uncanceled and are two of eight which were preserved by the heirs of the Hon. Welbore Ellis, who was commissioner of internal revenue for Great Britain in the year 1765. After his death they came into the possession of his son, Welbore Ellis, jr., who was a partner in the famous banking house of Walker, Maltby, Everett & Ellis, which failed in the great financial panic of 1827. These two stamps remained in the Ellis family up to a few years ago, when they were given to Mr. E. J. Walker, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, by his grandfather, the senior member of the above-mentioned banking firm, who was interested in antiques and curiosities. A short time ago the two stamps were given by Mr. E. J. Walker to Mr. John A. Brill, of Philadelphia. Very soon after the stamps came into his possession Mr. Brill received an offer of £10 from an English collector for the two, but declined it at once, whereupon the Englishman cabled him an offer several times as large, which was also declined. Mr. Brill came to the conclusion that if the stamps were of that much value to an Englishman they would be of much more interest to an American museum of historical relics, and he promptly presented them to the national museum here, where they will be appreciated and properly preserved. They will be installed in a handsome frame, which will have pictures and proper legends that will help to tell the story of the causes that led to the American Revolution. — *Washington Evening Star*, December 21, 1889.

The disease of bibliomania is not so modern a one as many suppose. St. Jerome, who died in 420, records that he ruined himself in buying the works of Origen, which are said to have extended to fifty folio volumes!

## BOOKS and LIBRARIES IN ANCIENT ROME.

(From Lanciani's *Ancient Rome in the light of recent discoveries*, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

According to Vitruvius, the apartment of the house used as a library should be exposed towards the east, not only because such an exposure is the most convenient for reading in the early hours of the morning, but also because a southern or western exposure would favor the development of moths and mildew and the deterioration of books. These apartments were, as a rule, of small size.

In 1753 a private library was discovered at Herculaneum, with bookcases around the walls, and one bookcase in the middle of the floor. Although containing at least 1,700 volumes or rolls of papyrus, the size of the room did not exceed fifteen feet by twenty. This was due to the fact that libraries were never warmed, even in the depths of winter, either by steam, hot air, or open fires; not only so that the dangers of conflagration might be avoided, but also because heat is injurious to books and bindings, and favors the development of moths. This is the reason why students in our own Vatican library have always been condemned to freeze for four months of the year. The ancients avoided both extremes, freezing and burning, by keeping their literary treasures in small rooms, such as the one discovered at Herculaneum.

With regard to the number of volumes collected in private libraries, it varied, of course, according to the taste and pecuniary resources of the owner. Persius, as I have just remarked, satisfied himself with 700 volumes; Q. Serenus Sammonicus, a physician of the third century, collected not less than 62,000, which afterward became, by bequest, the property of the crown. As a rule, private collectors were exceedingly fond of rare and costly *editions de luxe*, of dainty little volumes in which a skillful hand had concentrated the contents of an ordinary folio. \* \* \*

No wonder that rare or elegant editions would sometimes cost a small fortune. According to Gellius, Aristotle gave a sum corresponding to \$3,300 for a copy of Speusippos; Plato, likewise, paid \$1,833 for three volumes of Philolaos. \* \* \*

The great book-market, the "Paternoster-row" of ancient Rome, was the Argiletum, a quarter situated between the Roman Forum and the Subura. Here the *librarii* and the *antiquarii*, booksellers and copyists of old

works, kept their richly furnished shops, so often mentioned and described by Martial and Horace. On either side of the entrance door were hung elaborate advertisements, giving the title and the price of literary novelties. Each of the leading booksellers secured the privilege of the works of a leading author. Thus the brothers Sosii were the agents for Horace, and Atrectus and Secundus were the publishers of Martial, Tryphon of Quintilianus, and Dorus of Seneca.

Editions of one thousand copies were generally issued, as certified by Pliny the younger, and appeared in various literary markets at the same time; in Athens, where the great meeting-place of bibliophiles was in the orchestra of the theater of Bacchus; in Alexandria near the Serapaion; in Lyons, and so on. So great was the demand for rare books that spurious ones were freely put in circulation, a practice strongly denounced by Galenus, who complains that he found in bookstalls volumes bearing the name of Hippocrates which had never been written by the great master.

## ADVICE TO A LITERARY ASPIRANT.

A letter of William Cullen Bryant, hitherto unpublished.

NEW YORK, June 26, 1873.

DEAR SIR: It is not possible for me to do what you request of me in your note. The number of persons in this country ambitious to distinguish themselves in literary pursuits is very great, and every mail brings me an application of some sort from some of them, to which I am obliged to make very brief answers in order to find time for anything else. I am an old man, with many things on hand which require my attention, and with an impaired eyesight which does not allow me to read any but short and plain manuscripts.

Fortunately there is no need of a mentor for one who is determined to excel, if he will only read the best books and avoid the trash of the day. Good books are the best mentors, and the study of the noblest models of literature the best school of improvement. The works of men whose greatness is acknowledged are the best masters and furnish the best instruction. With these before you, you can hardly go astray. I am, sir,

Most respectfully, yours,

WM. C. BRYANT.



## BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

We propose to give from time to time in the **BOOK CHRONICLE** memoranda of government publications which contain bibliographies of special subjects, in hopes that it may prove useful to the librarian or to others interested. We believe that many of these bibliographies are little known and of much value. It was our original intention to print the whole list at one time, but want of space has prevented this.

The first installment will be found below, and others will follow in course of time.

**ALASKA.**—Partial list of books, pamphlets, papers in serial journals, and other publications on Alaska and adjacent regions, by W. H. Dall and Marcus Baker,—in *Pacific Coast Pilot—Alaska*, second series, Appendix I, 1879, page 225.

A very full, accurate and painstaking list.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE U. S.**—List of papers concerning the foreign relations, printed by order of Congress during the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th Congresses—in *Register of the Department of State*, October, 1883, page 53.

**ICELAND.**—Bibliography of the volcanoes, earthquakes, and geysers of Iceland, by Geo. H. Boehmer,—in *Smithsonian report*, 1885, page 513.

**ICELAND HOT SPRINGS AND GEYSERS.**—In 12th annual report of the U. S. geological and geographical survey of the territories, 1878. Vol. 2, page 432.

**INTEROCEANIC CANALS.**—A list of works having reference to the subject of interoceanic communication [by way of American isthmus],—in *Report of historical and technical information relating to the problem of interoceanic communication by way of the American isthmus*, by J. T. Sullivan, 1883, page 214.

—List of the principal authorities relating to projects of interoceanic communication through the American isthmuses,—in *Report on interoceanic canals and railroads between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans*, by C. H. Davis, 1867, page 32.

**LEWIS AND CLARKE'S TRAVELS.**—An account of the various publications relating to the travels of Lewis and Clarke, by Dr. Elliott Coues,—in *Bulletin of the geological and geographical survey of the territories*, second series, No. 6, page 417.

**MONEY.**—A partial list of modern publications on the subject of money,—in *Proceedings of the international monetary conference*, Paris, 1878, page 737.

**NEW ZEALAND HOT SPRINGS AND GEYSERS.**—In 12th annual report of the U. S. geological and geographical survey of the territories, 1878. Vol. 2, page 435.

**ORNITHOLOGY.**—List of faunal publications relating to N. A. Ornithology,—in *Birds of the Colorado Valley*, by Elliott Coues, 1878, page 567. A "Second installment" of this appears in *Bulletin of the U. S. geological and geographical survey*, Vol. 5, No. 2, page 239. A "Third installment" appears in Vol. 5, No. 4, page 521.

**PERIODICALS.**—Catalogue of periodical publications issued during the census year, June 1, 1879, to May 31, 1880,—in *Tenth Census of the U. S.*, Vol. 8, page 199.

**SEWERAGE.**—Catalogue of publications relating to sewerage, compiled by Rudolph Hering,—in *National Board of Health Bulletin*, Supplement No. 16, page 44; also in *Report of National Board of Health*, 1881, page 200.

**SHORTHAND.**—Teaching, practice and literature of Shorthand, by J. E. Rockwell,—Circular of information of the Bureau of Education, 1884, No. 2.

**SORGHUM.**—Bibliography of sorghum,—in *Investigation of the scientific and economic relations of the sorghum sugar industry*, a report of National Academy of Sciences, 1882, page 148.

**SUGAR.**—Bibliography of starch sugar,—in *Report of the National Academy of Sciences*, 1883, page 109.

**THERMAL SPRINGS OF THE U. S.**—in 12th annual report of the U. S. geological and geographical survey of the territories, 1878. Vol. 2, page 436.

—of countries other than the U. S., *Same*, Vol. 2, page 440.

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.**—in 12th annual report of the U. S. geological and geographical survey of the territories, 1878. Vol. 2, page 427.

—Mr. Selwyn, a very sagacious and experienced citizen of London, used to say that a man who deliberates about going to law should have

1. A good cause.
2. A good purse.
3. An honest and skilful attorney.
4. Good evidence.
5. Able counsel.
6. An upright judge.
7. An intelligent jury.
8. Good luck; without which, with all the other seven, it is odds but he miscarries his suit.

—D. Appleton & Co., of N. Y., have just published General Birney's book, "James G. Birney and his Times, the Genesis of the Republican Party."

This is a political history interwoven with biography. As an exposure of pseudo reformers and a vindication of constitutional methods it is valuable. The style is terse and the interest in the narrative well sustained. The book will take high rank.

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## A GOVERNMENT CATALOGUE.

For many years past Senators, Members of Congress, and executive officers in all branches of the Government, as well as librarians throughout the country, have been greatly hampered in their work by reason of the fact that they have had no means of reference to the publications of the United States Government. Millions of dollars have been expended in printing documents which must constantly be referred to, and it is safe to say that the loss of time sustained by the Government in the daily grand search which goes on in every quarter for things wanted, and not to be found, is equivalent every year to the cost of having made a sensible, complete, and practical catalogue, whereby every single article printed can be found just as quickly as a word can be found in Webster's Dictionary. In 1881 Congress spent a large sum of money in producing what is called a "Catalogue of Government Publications," the work being done under the direction of Major Poore. This catalogue is simply an imperfect and unreliable chronological list of documents on big pages, in small type, without catchwords, and supplied with index. The arrangement is so bad that an entire day of hard labor is entailed if one wishes to look up any subject which contains numerous references, and even the index is faulty and inaccurate in the extreme. Altogether the work is a distracting failure. Every librarian would do well to write his Senators and Members to ask them to aid in securing the preparation of a catalogue which would be a key to unlock the great treasure-house of Government publications. Certainly every one must recognize the necessity for such a work, and it can be secured if a little pressure is brought to bear.

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{ Vol. I. No. 6.

## GEORGE III, FRANKLIN, AND DR. JOHNSON.

[From Willis' "Current Notes," December, 1851.]

It is well known that George III for some of the most important years of his reign made notes respecting nearly all the persons and occurrences which came under his observation, very frequently by apt quotations from Shakespeare.

"In addition," says a publication of 1779, "to the numerous private registers always kept by the King, and written with his own hand, he has lately kept another of all those Americans who have either left the country voluntarily rather than submit to the rebels, and also such as have been driven out by force, with an account of their losses and services."

One of these note-books recently came under G. W.'s inspection. That it was in the King's autograph there can be no question, and his opinions of Dr. Franklin and Dr. Johnson, in 1778, are very remarkable—

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

"O, let us have him; for his silver hairs  
Will purchase us a good opinion,  
And buy men's voices to commend our  
deeds;  
It shall be said, his judgment ruled our  
hands;  
Our youths and wildness shall no whit  
appear,  
But all be buried in his gravity."

*Julius Cæsar, Act 2, Scene 1.*

DR. JOHNSON.

"He draweth out the thread of his ver-  
bosity  
Finer than the staple of his argument.  
I abhor such fanatical phantasms,  
Such insociable and point-devise com-  
panions,  
Such rackers of orthography."

*Love's Labour's Lost, Act 5, Scene 1.*

## A LETTER FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON.

[An unpublished letter from Washington to his nephew, Robert Lewis, written shortly before his departure for New York to be inaugurated first President of the United States.]

MOUNT VERNON *Mar* 24th 1789.

DEAR BOB.

Your letters of the 18th to your Aunt and myself, found me at this place—where it is not likely I shall remain much longer.

It is not very probable, as I shall want to be well fixed at New York before I send for your Aunt—and the same Horses will have to carry us both there—that she will be able to commence her journey for that place before the first of May. But in this as in every dependent event of your life I would advise you to prepare for it in time. If you are ready before it happens no possible injury will be sustained thereby,—but if the event is too forward for your preparations, very great inconveniences may.—As soon as your Aunt is advised by me, of the time my horses will set out, your couzen George will give you notice of it, that you may be here in time to commence your Squire-ship.

She joins me in love to my Sister, & requests that she & Mrs. Willis may be informed of the pleasure she shall have in their companies.

I am—Your affect uncle

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

P. S.

I should be glad if  
you would send the enclosed  
Letter to Mr Fitzhugh.

## ORIGIN OF CLOTH BINDINGS.

The use of cloth to bind books is said to have originated with William Pickering, the English publisher, famous for his beautifully printed books. In 1825 he became dissatisfied with the paper then used for boarded

books, and while one day passing down Holborn his attention was attracted by some red glazed cotton cloth exposed for sale at a draper's shop. The application of the cloth instead of ordinary paper occurred to him, and soon led to its general adoption throughout the bookselling trade. We have seen a copy of his edition of Shakespeare in eleven volumes issued in this year (1825), which was bound in the red muslin as above mentioned.

### THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The franking privilege enjoyed by the Members of Congress and department officials in the United States is confined to the publications coming from the Government Printing Office and to official letters. In old England things were somewhat different in days gone by. The franking privilege originated in 1660, and in 1763 it was found that, amongst other things sent free by post, were "fifteen couples of hounds, two maid-servants going as laundresses, Dr. Crichton carrying with him a cow, two bales of stockings, and a deal case with four flitches of bacon." Our law-makers were never quite so bad as that, although twenty years ago some of them did send their soiled clothes to their homes to be laundered.

### HOW WE HAVE IMPROVED ON THE ANCIENTS.

[Frances Power Cobbe in the *Forum*.]

Let us sum up the conclusions of this paper.

1. The desire of food has passed the stage of gluttony and become in Europe and America only a subordinate branch of general luxury.
2. Sexual love has undergone a glorifying transformation from a universal brute instinct to (very commonly) an exalting ideal passion.
3. Indolence has given way to almost feverish activity.
4. Hatred has diminished in frequency and intensity, and revenge has become obsolete. Anger is perhaps more often self-controlled.
5. Sympathy with suffering has vastly increased and largely displaced heteropathy and aversion.
6. Wholesale indignation has waned disastrously, and remorse has disappeared.
7. Avarice has almost died out and given place to acquisitiveness and covetousness, often united with prodigality, and giving rise to a gigantic extension of the vice of gambling.
8. The desire of fame has degenerated into the love of notoriety.
9. The love of natural beauty, especially of the wilder sort, has been born, and has become a large factor in modern en-

joyment. 10. Humor is more common, more refined and more prized. 11. Men and women have become almost nomadic in their habits, so perpetual are their removals and journeys. 12. The minds of men have become infinitely more subtle, their emotions more varied, more complex, more rarefied in every way; thereby new dangers of duplicity are incurred, and at the same time the capacity for high emotional and intellectual pleasures is enlarged.

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—Bibliography of the entomological work of Townsend Glover,—in Life and Entomological Work of the late Townsend Glover, by C. R. Dodge, 1888 (Entomological Bulletin, No. 18, Department of Agriculture).

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**FISH.**—Bibliography of Reports of Fishery Commissions, by Theodore Gill,—in Annual Report of the U. S. Fish Commission, 1872-3, page 774.

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To speed the red, departing sun.  
The eastern wall from frieze to plinth  
Shall be the poet's labyrinth,  
Where one may find the lords of rhyme  
From Homer's down to Dobson's time;  
And at the northern side a space  
Shall show an open chimney-place,  
Set round with ancient tiles that tell  
Some legend old and weave a spell  
About the fire-dog-guarded seat,  
Where one may dream and taste the heat:  
Above, the mantel should not lack  
For curios and bric-à-brac—  
Not much, but just enough to light  
The room up when the fire is bright.  
The volumes on this wall should be  
All prose and all philosophy,  
From Plato down to those who are  
The dim reflections of that star;  
And these tomes all should serve to show  
How much we write—how little know;  
For since the problem first was set  
No one has ever solved it yet.  
Upon the shelves toward the west  
The scientific books shall rest;  
Beside them, History; above—  
Religion—hope, and faith, and love:  
Lastly, the southern wall should hold  
The story-tellers, new and old;  
Haroun al Raschid, who was truth  
And happiness to all my youth,  
Shall have the honored place of all  
That dwell upon this sunny wall,  
And with him there shall stand a throng  
Of those who help mankind along  
More by their fascinating lies  
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A remarkable collection of American colonial laws and early Americana illustrative of these rare books, made by the late Charlemagne Tower, has been presented by his widow to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. His son has added greatly to the value of the gift by his admirable catalogue, beautifully printed at the Lippincott Press, and presented to the Historical Society for the use of its own members and of those of kindred bodies and of other persons interested. The elder Mr. Tower was greatly assisted in forming his collection by the indefatigable labor of one of our best American bibliographers, Mr. Charles M. Hildeburn, Librarian of the Philadelphia Athenæum, and the son very wisely secured Mr. Hildeburn's help in making the catalogue, in which, characteristically, his name nowhere appears. \* \* \* For forty years Mr. Tower had been gathering the collection now catalogued. It contains the first edition extant of the laws of almost each of the original colonies, supplemented by all the revisions down to 1800, and, the rarest of rare books, the original sessions laws. The set of Pennsylvania laws is unequalled, that of Massachusetts is the finest and most complete gathered together, and that of New York has the edition of 1789 in the copy specially bound for presentation to Washington, with his autograph and book-plate in each volume. The Americana are general histories, books on America printed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a fine series of the Eliot Indian Tracts and other curious books relating to the Indians. All of these are bound in the best style and are interesting as fine examples of the bookbinder's art, with some characteristic touches, for each colony has its distinctive color and each book its appropriate decoration. Altogether, the Tower collection is a monument eminently worthy of the man.—*The Nation*.

## "POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK."

In the delightful essay on the history of the almanack in general, and of "Poor Richard's Almanack" in particular, with which Mr. Paul Leicester Ford prefaces his edition of Ben Franklin's celebrated literary production, we are struck by the resemblance which exists between the modern newspaper and that popular institution of "ye olden time" of which Poor Richard was such a brilliant exponent. Before the newspaper became the universal



medium of information the almanack was to the masses the source of general knowledge—fact, fancy and philosophy being furnished by its fertile pages. It has practically passed away now, or, rather, its eclectic character has deteriorated, and it possesses at the present day but one notable function—that of giving information about the weather. Nevertheless, though the genus almanack is departed, Poor Richard's Almanac remains, rich in its rare wisdom, its varied information and in Addisonian charm of expression. It is safe to say that it never will become obsolete. It is one of the most precious relics of our early American literature.—*Boston Traveller.*

### IRRIGATION.

The recent report of the Senate Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation of Arid Lands will prove to be one of the most valuable of recent Government publications, treating comprehensively, as it does, a subject on which there has been comparatively little information. The testimony is printed in full and embraces the views and opinions of experts from various portions of the country. The great importance of the problem may be brought to mind by the following extract from the committee's report: "Over two-fifths of the area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, requires irrigation to insure regular crops, and in at least four-fifths of the arid region irrigation is a necessity for the production thereof. This arid region comprises between 1,200,000 and 1,300,000 square miles, being a third larger than British India, and very similar to it in its general characteristics." The volumes are divided according to the sections of country treated, viz: The Northwest; The Great Basin Region and California; Rocky Mountain Region and Great Plains; Statements by Director Powell and other officers of the U. S. Geological Survey, consular reports, miscellaneous papers, etc.

### STATE DOCUMENTS.

The report of Dr. W. H. Egle, State Librarian of Pennsylvania, for 1888-'89 contains a most valuable contribution to bibliography in a neglected but very important branch, *i. e.*, State laws and documents. Dr. Egle has prepared with evident great care and here printed a complete list of the Pennsylvania laws, minutes, journals, and documents from 1682 to 1889, giving full titles and references.

It is only recently that the importance of

our local institutional history has been generally recognized, and the great value of State documents as original sources for the study of the question become known. It is notorious, however, that knowledge concerning these documents is to be had with great difficulty, if at all, owing to the confusion and lack of system in their publication. If other State librarians would follow Dr. Egle's example, how much trouble and annoyance would be saved to students, who now are obliged to spend a great amount of time preparatory to the investigation of a subject in learning *what* materials are available for their purposes.

### THE OHIO ABORIGINAL EARTH-WORKS.

The following extract from Prof. Cyrus Thomas' recent paper on the aboriginal remains in Ohio shows his conclusions respecting them:

A careful study of these works, and of all the data bearing upon the questions regarding them, will satisfy any one, not biased by a preconceived theory, that their characteristics are essentially aboriginal. In other words, there is nothing in them or connected with them contradictory to the theory of their Indian origin, except it be the single fact that a few of them approach very nearly to true geometrical figures. That it was a custom among the Indians North and South to build circular inclosures and forts, is fully attested by history; it is also known that some of the Indian forts in the northern section were polygonal, especially those built by Iroquois tribes. There is, therefore, nothing in the form or arrangement that is inconsistent with Indian ideas and usages. On the other hand, there is nothing in their form or construction consistent with the idea that their conception is due to European influence. There are, however, indications relating to individual works which forbid this idea.

The discovery in the mounds of this section, presumably of the same age, of numerous indications of contact with Europeans, which can not be mentioned here, must also be allowed to have some bearing upon the question of the age of these works.

That Indians can lay out true circles of moderate size will be admitted; that they are less able now to perform many things which necessity formerly compelled them to practice must also be admitted. No valid reason can be presented why Indians, taught by necessity and practice, could not lay off by the eye and by means at hand figures with which they were familiar more correctly than the white man without instruments.

—We had occasion recently to prepare a list of all Government publications on the subject of International Exhibitions, and a few copies of the list have been privately printed. As long as these last, librarians or others interested will be welcome to a copy on application.

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AND

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## MEN WHO FREQUENT BOOK-STORES.

There is no question as to the fact that men are much the same the world over in their vanities and peculiarities, and their weaknesses are always under the lens of some specially critical observer. We doubt if a bookstore is not the best possible place in which to witness the varieties of human nature, and booksellers certainly have made slight use of their opportunities if they have not cultivated that additional sense which enables them intuitively to measure in a few moments the average visitor who questions him as to the books he has to offer. He must exercise much patience when he finds his rare and delicate volumes handled as though they were dime novels, the leaves thumbed and turned with moist fingers, and irreverently tossed back on the shelves; but he finds his recompense in the pleasure experienced when a lover of books takes these same volumes as tenderly as rose leaves, lovingly handling them as things to be cherished, and manifesting an appreciation of their worth both by reason of their rarity and their money value. Doubtless every dealer can fix in his own mind the identity of a limited number of patrons (?) whose purchases foot up a dollar or two a year, yet who occasionally strut into the establishment and loudly declaim: "Ah, you have a great collection of books here—a fine collection—but it's a dangerous place for me; I never can get out of a bookstore without buying." Yes, we know several such, who seldom fail to make this stereotyped expression, but never buy a book; and they are silly enough to think they are deceiving us. But, bless you, they only make us smile. There is another specimen who walks in a lazy sort of way amongst the shelves, occasionally punching a book with his walking stick as though it was a ham, and expressing his admiration for it because his father had one in his library when he was a boy. He does not know just

what is inside of it, but he recognizes "the binding and a picture of a bird on the back." Of course, every fifth man who is startled by the vast collection yields to the impulse to quote: "Of making many books there is no end."

In contrast with some of those above referred to, we have the real book-lovers who linger for hours at a time with their favorite authors, cultivating their friendship to a still greater degree and learning to know them better than ever. Such men are welcome visitors, be they buyers or not. For one old friend we have always a welcome; he is versed in all the mysteries of book-lore, familiar with languages, and at seventy years blessed with a good memory. Often he will take one of the old classics from the shelf, become immersed in its contents, insensible to all his surroundings, and stand almost immovable for three or four hours at a time, until something occurs to recall him to a sense of time, and then with a sigh he breaks away from his pleasant occupation. Another visitor we know and admire is a high Government official, a man of vast learning, thorough cultivation, extended reading, a fine memory, and a cheerful enjoyment of everything he reads. Every book he finds is but the continuation of a subject he has before pursued; in every page he is reminded of other pages he has scanned, perhaps years ago, and he is master of all the matters he has taken in hand. He has a fine library at home, and in his head a store of knowledge equal to that contained in his collection of books. This venerable gentleman is *en rapport* with the best books, and they and he are at home together.

There are occasional cranky callers, but usually they are harmless; once in awhile comes one who can not resist the temptation to surreptitiously carry away a book or two; their first offense usually betrays them, and they are looked after when they come again.

## AN ERA OF MANY BOOKS.

The paradoxical are wont to affirm that, though this is an era of many books, it is one of little real reading. Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, in his presidential address to the Library Association at Reading, has given the paradox wider currency and the stamp of authority. The press works with ever-increasing speed, books multiply, new libraries rise, yet the multitude does not read to such effect as when the press was much less active and the storehouses of thought much less numerous. Such, at least, is the testimony of the first Librarian in the kingdom; and in part our own pages to-day bear out his statements. Perhaps never was the book-world so busy as it is now, or its total production for a single season so enormous.

Mr. Thompson's words would seem to imply that the age is much given to mental dissipation. No doubt it is. Magazines and newspapers furnish many people with all the intellectual pabulum they desire. They get through piles of printed matter without ever opening the covers of a book, so that, excellent as is the daily and periodical press as a whole, those who read it alone must, in the nature of things, miss the most substantial fare. And even in the case of books Mr. Thompson informed his audience that the taste is more and more for brevity. Formerly, brevity was the soul of wit, now it is the chief merit of literature. Such works as Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," and Carlyle's "Frederick" are reverently laid on the shelf and there allowed to accumulate dust as securely as any Egyptian mummy. The impatience of the age will not tolerate expansiveness in books. There is no leisurely browsing and chewing of the literary cud such as Charles Lamb describes with the gusto of an epicure. As a people we have lost the art of taking our ease in our inn, or anywhere else; assuredly we do not take it in the library or in a corner under the book-shelf. The world presses, and reading has to be done in snatches. Amplitude is out of the question. Verbiage and ornamentation are alike fatal. Everything must be condensed. The oracle must be laconic, the historian concise, the poet is forbidden under penalty of neglect to write epics; for readers want the pith and marrow. "We live," says Mr. Thompson, "in days of small books, in which is condensed the information which used to be conveyed in a much larger form. It is an age of literature in nut-shells; and that points to the fact that

we do not live in a reading age, in the true sense of the word. More people read, but we live too fast to find time to read deeply." All this is true, and we should be the last to doubt the profitableness of deep reading. But there is something to be said for the principle of condensation also. Mr. Thompson justly hails it as a happy sign that the Free Libraries Act is being so largely adopted. Libraries are potent educational agencies, and to plant them in densely populated centres is at least to place the best means of civilization within the people's reach. Now the increase of libraries is a direct and inevitable result of the multiplication of books and the low price at which much of the best literature of the world is now published. It ought not to be forgotten that the masses do not live to read books. With them it must be literature in nut-shells, or not at all, and the old proverb has it, that half a loaf is better than no bread. Moreover, there is nothing that will bear condensation better than thought. Concentration is power, and it may be that it is not solely owing to lack of time to read long works the public demand short ones. There may be a healthy instinct at work as well. We are glad to observe that Mr. Thompson has a good word to say for the fiction of the day.—*Publishers' Circular, October 1, 1890.*

—THE Fifth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor, Col. Carroll D. Wright, is in press, and will be ready for delivery during November. It will treat of railroad labor and railroad statistics. Col. Wright's reports are made with a carefulness which guarantees the avoidance of all possible errors, for the reason that he has no theories to establish by the straining of facts, but lets the facts establish the theory.

—THE *Chicago Leader* alleges that a Minnesota farmer has made a strong appeal to the Government in favor of a *paper currency based on wheat* to be bought by the Secretary of the Treasury and stored. Would not the security be stronger if the currency were based on—well, say *onions*, for instance; or, to be in accord with the views of some legislators, perhaps, *peanuts* might be suggested.

—THE *Congressional Record* for the first session of the Fifty-first Congress will be ready about January 1, and will consist of twelve bound volumes, including the Appendix and Index.

—THE laws passed at the first session of the Fifty-first Congress are now being compiled and will be ready for sale some time early in December.

—VOLUMES 17 and 18 of the *Opinions of the Attorney-General* have just been issued.



# A KORAN.

[Clinton Scollard in *Times-Democrat*.]

Morocco-bound, before me lies  
A curious volume that I prize;  
Upon the final page of it,  
In eastern character, is writ  
The name of him who found therein  
A shield against the shafts of sin.  
With long and arduous toil I spell  
Slow syllable by syllable:  
"Abdul Hafiz," the name I see—  
"Hegira-year nine eighty-three."

Like shadows dim the decades pass,  
And, as within a magic glass,  
I seem to view him, grave and calm,  
This holy book upon his palm;  
A turban green and silken wound  
His closely-shaven brow around;  
A negligence about his dress;  
And yet a wholesome cleanliness,  
Revealing that he well obeyed  
The law, and washed before he prayed.

My ardent fancy pictures him  
Within a court-yard cool and dim;  
Around him grouped with studious air  
Are many a tiny turbaned pair  
Who con aloud their tasks in low,  
Soft voices while the dull hours go,  
Or catch from off his bearded lip  
The hoarded wisdom he lets slip.  
His dark eye often resting on  
The very book I gaze upon.

And though I may not read its page  
As did the ancient Moslem sage,  
Yet hath the orient tome for me  
More charm than mere antiquity.  
It seems to widely-backward throw  
The barrier doors of long ago;  
And centuried corridors along  
I hear the lute-like sound of song;  
What touched a chord in Hafiz' heart  
Must have of good some golden part!

# THE NAPOLEON ACROSTIC.

[From the *Chicago American*.]

The following acrostic was written by a professor in Dijon as soon as the entrance of the allies into that town had enabled its loyal population to declare in favor of its legitimate sovereign. The translation is also given.

N ihil fuit;	He was nothing;
A ugustus coluit;	He became emperor;
P opulus reduxit;	He conquered nations;
O rbem disturbavit;	He disturbed the world;
L ibertatem oppressit;	He oppressed liberty;
E cclesiam distraxit;	He distracted the church;
O mnia esse voluit;	He wished to be everything;
N ihil erit.	He shall be nothing.

# CHARLES DICKENS—A CHARACTERISTIC MEMORY.

[*Kate Field's Washington*.]

It was worth while receiving a compliment from Dickens, because it was turned with art. I know of one note in this country so felicitous in expression as to deserve publicity. It was addressed to a young girl who had been a constant attendant on his readings, which were to her a dramatic revelation. Going up the steps of Steinway Hall, New York, on the occasion of Dickens's New Year's Eve reading, this girl was met by a friend who stopped her, saying: "I've a message for you from the Chief." Dickens was always called "the Chief" by his intimate friends. "I asked him if he saw you in the audience. 'See her!' replied Dickens, 'yes, God bless her! She's the best audience I ever had.'"

"And I've a message for Mr. Dickens," answered the delighted girl. Whereupon she drew forth a basket of violets which graced the reader's desk during the evening, and elicited the following response:

"*My dear Miss Field:*

"I entreat you to accept my most cordial thanks for your charming New Year's present. If you could know what pleasure it yielded me, you would be repaid for your delicate and sympathetic kindness.

"But I must avow that nothing in the pretty basket of flowers was quite so interesting to me as a certain bright, fresh face I have seen at my readings, which, I am told, you may see, too, when—you look in the glass!

"Cordially yours, CHARLES DICKENS."

Not long afterward, on being introduced to "Boz," this same girl exclaimed: "Ah, Mr. Dickens, I owe you so heavy a debt of gratitude as to be unable to pay even the interest on it!"

"I'll give you a receipt in full," was Mr. Dickens' quick response, and underneath a very ferocious engraving of himself he wrote:

"Received of Miss Kate Field all the thanks she owes me—and many more, with which I am better pleased than I appear to be in the above gloomy presentment of my state of mind.  
CHARLES DICKENS."

I wouldn't part with those autographs for the Presidency of the United States. What sane woman would?

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{ Vol. I. No. 9.

## READERS AND READING.

We hear it affirmed, and generally without contradiction, that "nowadays everybody reads." We likewise frequently hear it said that "the Americans are the greatest readers in the world." Both declarations are misleading. Possibly everybody *reads* nowadays, if by "reading" one means to say that everybody *peruses* the newspapers of the day, for newspaper reading has become a dissipation which has done much towards lowering the intellectual standard and taste of the people. If, however, we give "reading" the higher and more dignified definition, viz.: "To be studious; to be instructed or knowing by reading; versed in books; learned," we apprehend that a critical study of our acquaintances would leave us in considerable doubt as to the truth of the declaration that "everybody reads." We make no question as to the grand usefulness of the daily and weekly newspapers, but we do seriously question the wisdom of the character of "news" with which their columns are filled, and we are quite confident that they have largely destroyed the taste of the masses for more solidly instructive matter, as well as their capacity for the absorption and digestion of the food necessary for their mental growth. The American journalistic fever produces a daily detail of all the crimes and scandals and accidents occurring in the habitable world, practically, and a prurient taste has been cultivated for the minute and disgusting details which no parent would care to have read aloud in the family circle. Newspapers, of course, are reputable, and the publishers are reputable, and they claim that they publish only what the public demands. The subject is too broad for our limited space, but too serious to be ignored. Aside from the moral depreciation, however, mental degradation is certain to follow as the result of inordinate newspaper reading. Gilbert Hamerton has said that the art of reading is to "skip judiciously." Nowhere can this be put into practice with such good results as in newspaper reading. Read the good, "skip" the bad—the scandals, the murders, the whole category of crimes, the prurient, the irreverent—and

thus limit the journal to its legitimate purpose; preserve your mental strength, and save time enough to take up some good book which you can analyze and digest. Do not read to kill time, but to gain knowledge and beautify your life.

The Americans are the greatest *newspaper* readers in the world, the English probably the greatest *book* readers, and thereby they are better cultivated in a literary sense. The English newspaper confines itself to politics and news in a condensed form, and its perusal occupies but a tithe of the time given up to reading. The statistics of the libraries and publishers prove this conclusion.

Martin Luther undoubtedly stated a fact when he said: "All who would study with advantage in any art whatsoever ought to betake themselves to the reading of some sure and certain books oftentimes over, for to read many books produceth confusion rather than learning, like as those who dwell everywhere are not anywhere at home." Julius Hare says: "Desultory reading is indeed very mischievous, by fostering habits of loose, discontinuous thought, by turning the memory into a common sewer for rubbish of all thoughts to flow through." Coleridge said, "Some readers are like jelly-bags—they let pass away all that is good, and retain only what is impure and refuse; another class is like a sponge—their minds suck all up and give it back again a little dirtier; others are like an hour-glass—the sand runs in and out and leaves no trace; but there are those who, like the slave in the mines, retains the gold and the gem, and casts aside the dross." The American intellect is eager, alert, grasping, comprehensive, and of limitless capacity, but to be the "greatest reader in the world" the American must devote himself to books; he must select with judgment; study with care, over and over again, that which he needs, shunning utterly the bad, frivolous, idle, and foolish, and especially the disgusting sensational novels so plentiful of late, which begin to make us cry aloud for an official literary censor who will protect the people from a flood of nauseating stuff which promises to drown out the decency of the people.

## THE INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

When Secretary Blaine organized the International American Conference and succeeded in bringing together at the national capital of the United States the ablest men of the South and Central American Governments, he took the first visible step towards the accomplishment of a grand project which must redound to the good of the people of all the Americas and eventually result in close commercial and social relations. The establishment of the Bureau of South American Republics has followed as a permanent and necessary result, and at the head of it has been placed Mr. W. E. Curtis, who is one of the most enthusiastic, energetic, industrious, broad-minded men in the country. His long years of experience in newspaper life, his literary training, his extended travel—especially in South America, his familiarity with languages, have marked him specially for the very delicate and responsible duties connected with the position referred to. Any one who will examine into the plans formulated and the work laid out by the bureau will have made to him a revelation as to the purposes and possibilities of the future which will occasion him considerable surprise and arouse his patriotism. Through the instrumentality of Mr. Curtis' project the peoples of this hemisphere will come to know each other in every way, to cultivate mutual interests, to become closely allied and fulfil the natural purposes of their political and geographical conditions. An awakened interest, with convenient steamship and railroad facilities, will divert the line of commercial and pleasure travel from Europe to our own interesting neighbors, who will in turn visit us.

There has recently been issued by the bureau several volumes giving the proceedings of the International American Conference, with all the reports and discussions, as well as a volume containing a narrative of the tour of the delegates through the United States, describing the places visited and the particulars of the receptions extended and addresses delivered; another volume gives a history of the Congress at Panama in 1826 and all the subsequent movements looking to a conference of American nations, with the correspondence relating thereto. There are both English and Spanish editions of these volumes. The work of the Bureau of American Republics has only commenced, and its possibilities are unlimited.

## OLD BOOKS.

(From "Shakespeare and other Lectures," by George Dawson, M. A.)

This generation is in great danger of reading too much and thinking too little. I condemn the practice of reading a great number of new books. If the records of the libraries of this or of any other institution were examined it would be found that where one man takes off the shelf an old book a thousand take off a new one. It is to me a subject of regret that so few read old books at all. I like to meet a man who has not read a new book. I glorify old English books, particularly books that were written before the admirable Georges came, and will try to show how, by the fact of their being old, and also by virtue of their contents, they are as well worth reading as any new books whatever. When I look down the list of new books with which this nation is flooded every year, I find how oblivion takes care of its own—how death looks after dulness. But the majority of old books have been tested and tried; they are the books that have held on; they were sent out into the world as bantlings, and they have managed to live; they are sound in constitution, wind and limb. My own opinion now is that old books are the best. By their freedom from vulgarity, party spirit and all the affectations of our own time, they are excellent, and have an immense advantage over new ones.

It is difficult to say when a book ceases to be new; some have considered as old books all previous to Goethe, but it is almost impossible to draw the line. Good books, like gentlemen, have no age or time. Shakespeare was a man of all time—one of the immortals of the earth, one of the catholics of the world, whom no country can claim, of whose biography we know little, and that little is not needed; he was a dateless man, an immortal man, always young and always old, and belonging to every generation.

I shall say nothing of classical books; nothing of that dateless book, the Book of books—the Bible, but limit my remarks to old English books. They may be considered either as to the material of the volume, the volumes themselves or what is in them. I have spent many a half hour in railway carriages and elsewhere in endeavoring to fathom the mystery of a love of old china, but have failed; it is something *sui generis*, so peculiar, causeless and endless—one of the quiddities of the human mind, which defeats anything like analysis or apprehension. Something analo-



gous is a certain sort of bibliomania regarding books, not as to the matter that is in them, but as to how many are in the market; not as things to be read and studied, but to be possessed and hugged by their fortunate owners who are powerful in title pages and colophons and dates, to whom the odor and incense of an old library are cheering, its frowsiness delightful, its mustiness charming, and from whom the fewness of the edition, the yellowness of the paper, and the unsavory look of the volume, the Aldine, Elzevir or Baskerville edition draws forth intense praise. Absurd as this may seem, I can somewhat sympathize with it; it is one of the fringes and skirts of literature—admirable and lovely, but weak. One can hardly read the "Pilgrim's Progress" in an edition with the modern refinements of drawing and niceties of engraving, but must turn to some old tome, with the hero in his old English dress. The "Fairie Queene" looks by no means well upon very white nineteenth-century paper, and in Chaucer modernized no man can believe.

#### ONE OF SEVEN.

We know of a rare chance for a collector of early imprints, early laws, or Americana generally, to buy what is now known to be the *first book* printed in New York. It is: "The | Laws and Acts | of the | General Assembly | for | Their Majestie's Province | of | New York | .....1691. | At New York, | Printed and sold by William Bradford, Printer to their Majesties, King | William & Queen Mary, 1694." Folio.

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We hope to secure this "chance of a lifetime" for some one of our customers, to whom we will furnish further particulars.

—THE fourth edition of Guyot's Meteorological and Physical tables is now in course of preparation, and will be somewhat enlarged. As a considerable amount of labor is involved, it will probably be several months before it comes from the printer. As this work has been out of print for some time, many persons will be glad to learn that a new edition is to be issued.

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—Lines attributed to Rantzau, founder of the great library at Copenhagen.

—A CURIOUS thing, says the *Independent*, about the recent quarrel over the wrongs which authors receive from the hands of publishers is that it arose over "A Life of Christ." The disputants would have done better to have taken the advice given to the Rev. Newman Hall when he proposed to publish a very angry pamphlet against some one who had injured him. He read it to Thomas Binney, we believe it was, who said it was admirable, and advised him to publish it under the title of "Go to Hell, by the author of 'Come to Jesus.'" He saw the point, and suppressed it.

—THE laws passed at the first session of Fifty-First Congress are now ready, only in paper binding, and they will not be issued in any other form until after the close of the present (second) session, after which the laws of the entire Congress will be issued in one book, which will constitute volume 26 of the series. It seems now quite likely that instead of issuing a second supplementary volume to the Revised Statutes, there will be prepared an entirely new revision up to 1890.

—ONE of the interesting publications lately issued by the Government is a pamphlet from the Committee on Printing, which gives a small map of every State, showing the composition of the various Congressional Districts. A good many of them might be taken for Chinese puzzles, or the track of a blind man in search of his way through a forest of infinite difficulties. As specimens of human ingenuity, political possibilities, or geographical necessities, they may be said to "take the cake."

—THE New York *Critic* has been canvassing the opinions of eminent literary people as to their choice of the best five American books produced during the decade of 1880-1890. Grant's "Memoirs," the Motley Correspondence, Parkman's "Montcalm and Wolfe," Adams's "History of the United States," Lowell's "Democracy," and Jefferson's "Autobiography" seem the favorites, so far as the results have been published.

—LIBRARIANS who have duplicate copies of Congressional documents previous to the Twentieth Congress might let us have a list of those which they are willing to exchange for something else. We may make it to mutual advantage, and we are willing to try the experiment.

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{ Vol. I. No. 10.

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The United States Government spends about \$3,000,000 annually for printing, and it owns and carries on the greatest printing and binding establishment in the world. At times Congress becomes desperately uneasy over the immense sums expended for printing, and Senators and Members of the House express themselves very forcibly on the subject. Unfortunately, they display a vast amount of—well, say, *unfamiliarity* with the matter. These Congressional ebullitions are not infrequently supplemented by newspaper articles written by correspondents who never fail to treat the matter with a degree of ignorance wholly inexcusable. Recently, in discussing the matter of printing in the Senate, consequent upon the introduction of a resolution to print 100,000 copies of a book on the diseases of the horse, a good deal was said about Senators and Members who were supposed to have made criminals of themselves by disposing of a portion of their quota of Government documents to book dealers. One Senator declared that any such Senator or Member should be expelled; and Senator Reagan asserted that he did not see how any bookseller could honestly procure a book published by the Government, so as to sell it for less than it cost the Government to publish it.

We apprehend that Senator Reagan does not understand a good many things in commercial life, and that therefore his inuendo will go for just about what it is worth. More nonsense has been written and spoken on this subject of Government documents than upon anything else claiming public attention, while the public moneys have been recklessly and wantonly squandered without a word of protest from either branch of Congress. We know something about this matter. The entire responsibility rests with Congress. In our long experience we have seldom met with a member of either house who was willing to sell his documents outright, and the prevailing impression that Senators and Members do this is entirely erroneous.

A few facts plainly stated may enlighten some persons in this matter. In the first

place, the system of distribution of public documents is all wrong. For instance: Congress orders the printing of 400,000 copies of the Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, and about 900 copies are assigned to every Senator and Member for distribution. No matter if the Congressman represents the heart of New York city or Philadelphia or Chicago, he must take his 900 Agricultural Reports. What will he do with them? Another order is passed for the printing of a document on silver mining; another on the tests of metals; another on the cultivation of tobacco or cotton, etc. All these are good enough for the people who need them. But, of what use are the books on cotton and tobacco to the people of Colorado or Nevada; or, what shall the people of Alabama and Tennessee do with the treatise on silver mining? The sensible thing for the Member to do is to give away the documents that are useless to his constituents for others they may want; and this exchange is constantly going on between Members and with dealers. These exchanges are looked upon as crimes by some of the gentlemen referred to, they seeming to regard a public document as a sacred article—a kind of *fetich*—which must never be disposed of by anybody. They print nearly half a million copies of a book, put a large proportion in the hands of people who have no earthly use for them; and then raise their voices in holy horror if it becomes possible to buy one from a bookseller. They can't imagine how a bookseller can come honestly by them. And yet these same men freely give away copies of these same books to every Tom, Dick and Harry who asks for them, and we don't believe they have ever taken a bond from the parties that they will never dispose of them.

The fact is that Congress is exceedingly liberal to itself in the matter of printing, and many persons question whether the vast number of documents printed is primarily for the public good or for the benefit of officials who expect to get personal credit amongst their constituents for the compliment they pay in sending them free through the mails books which the government pays for. Each

member of Congress has had placed in his hands during the last session of Congress no less than fifteen hundred books, and not one twentieth part of them has been usefully disposed of. When a new book or document is issued, if printed in large quantities, it is to be found in the hands of the people who hang about Congress and who beg of Senators and Members. A year later it would be impossible to find a copy except in the hands of the bookseller who is wise enough to lay it away for a future demand.

The comparatively useless product of an unnecessary bureau officer in the shape of a "report" is printed by the ten, twenty or fifty thousand. The obituary addresses delivered upon the occasion of the death of an obscure and unknown Member of the House appear in 12,000 copies of a book with a steel-plate portrait, and "fifty copies bound in full morocco with gilt edges for the family of the deceased," at a cost of over \$10,000. At the same time some valuable work which is wanted far and near is apt to be confined to the "usual number"—about 900 copies. Of course the aforesaid "report" and the obituary, steel-plate portrait and all, go to the paper mill—but Congressional dignity is upheld. The cost of obituary volumes in the fifty-first Congress was more than \$50,000. In the matter of the public printing Congress has run riot—the detail is as startling as it is tedious. The most absurd fact connected with it is, that in many cases 20,000 copies, say, are printed and distributed free by Senators and Members. Five hundred copies are printed for sale. The people who don't want them enough to ask for them get them for nothing. The people who do want them and ask for them must pay for them.

As a committee of both Houses has been appointed to investigate the whole matter, we might ask their attention to the greatest abuse of all, viz.: Under a law passed at the beginning of the Government every Senator and member has been supplied with a set of all the documents printed during his term of office, bound in leather. As nine-tenths of the matter is utterly useless, we might suppose that one set would satisfy any reasonable longing in that direction. Not so! About four Congresses ago a law was passed authorizing every Senator and member to have bound for his own use, free of charge to himself, in half-morocco binding, one copy of every document ordered printed during his term of office. As this involves an expense

of from one to three dollars per volume, this extra binding has cost the Government an immense sum of money, and not one in ten of the books so bound have been needed or wanted by the person ordering them.

But the subject is more extensive than our space, and we leave the wise men of Congress to remedy some of the expensive and unbusiness-like methods which enthrall them.

## THE FOUNDATIONS OF A LIBRARY.

As there is no royal road to learning, so there is no royal road to that outward and visible sign of it which consists in shelves well filled with books. The man who wants a library can not get it ready made. He may, it is true, buy a collection of books fairly well fitted to the average mind, but it will be about as satisfactory as the ready-made coat fitted to the average body. It will fail to meet his individual eccentricities.

Nor can the ideal library be gathered in a hurry. Nothing is more helpful to the tone and quality of a library than such a moderate degree of poverty as will limit purchases at first to the absolutely essential. In the buying of books, as in the buying of pictures, real discrimination comes only through actual experience, and it is very unfortunate to have too many bought at a low grade of development; but, on the other hand, no man should wait to begin his library until his taste is fully formed, or it will lack many books which he would gladly have there, but which would not run the gauntlet of his mature judgment.

A very common error in buying books is to start with cheap editions under the erroneous impression that later on they may be replaced by good ones. Unfortunately the mind of the book-lover will not assent to this plan, however strong his will. The book he takes up to read is invariably the old and shabby one, and the other becomes only a splendid bit of decoration to please the eye of the visitor. Your pet literature always tastes best from the page on which you originally read it; so, when you buy a book of which you are likely to become fond, it should be in a good enough form to keep. At least paper and print should be so respectable that a new binding will be all the change necessary. With the habitual student the sense of location is very highly developed. In his own library he finds things by their position on the page, and can turn at once to any given passage in a familiar author.



But put him in a room full of strange editions, and this laboriously acquired sixth sense becomes utterly useless.

The taste for fine bindings is a liking apart from the love of books for what they contain, but it is by no means an ignoble tendency, and adds vastly to the æsthetic effect of a well-chosen library. The housing and care of books, too, is a subject not beneath the notice of even the profoundest student. To shut them behind glass doors, as was the old fashion, was good for the books, but it gave the room in which they were kept the forbidding air of an anatomical museum. Open shelves, when not too high and deep for the volumes they are to contain, will not permit much dust to gather, especially if stuffy carpets and curtains are kept out, and rugs always removed for shaking.

What the library should contain is perhaps the most important point to consider. As has been already suggested, it should be strongly marked by the individuality of the owner, but this does not mean that it should be purposely eccentric. As every coat follows a certain outline, whatever its size or proportions, so the difference of private libraries should all be founded upon a primary resemblance. There are a certain number of books which must be there, not because they afford their owner particular satisfaction, but because they have so entwined themselves with other literature that they have become indispensable in understanding it. Then there are the books of reference—the time-savers—which more than double the working value of all the other volumes. The sciences, metaphysics, and history may be adjusted to meet the owner's taste. These are among the things which it is permissible, within certain bounds, not to know; but in the departments of poetry, essays, and fiction there are many books essential to a claim to liberal culture. Indeed, of fiction of the good sort, there can hardly be too much in the modern library. Long rows of the leading novelists, from Balzac to Howells, introduce the human element. The other books—I do not say the more serious ones, for nothing is more serious than good fiction—will furnish thought, but the great novels give us society.

Somewhere, too, behind a concealing curtain, there should be a ragged shelf-full of the lightest of paper-covered literature—those novels not great in any sense, but with the useful ability in their shabby pages for producing promptly that restful cerebral vacuum which the "best hundred" or thousand books is sometimes powerless to afford.

The familiar book in its familiar place is like the friend always in the same mood. It waits to serve your special need as no uncut volume fresh from the publisher, no brown-papered property of the public library, ever can do.—*Caroline Gray Lingle, in Kate Field's Washington.*

## THE LIBRARY OF FERNANDO COLUMBUS.

In an old copy of Valerius Flaccus, which has recently come into our possession, and which was once the property of Fernando Columbus, son of Christopher Columbus, we find the following interesting note written on a fly-leaf:

"The chief and favorite occupation of Fernando Columbus seems to have consisted in collecting a very large library, which he desired to place within the reach of every one in Spain. To that effect he travelled all over Europe, purchasing books everywhere, never failing to write, on the last leaf, where each book was bought, the date, and price paid. When the collection had attained nearly 20,000 volumes he wrote a letter to Philippe II, placing the library under his protection, and proposing that a real *Index raisonné* of the collection should be deposited in every city, and giving to all the privilege to have searches and extracts made at the expense of the library.

The Index was then made by Fernando himself, and is still to be seen, though very much damaged, in Seville. It is a folio volume of about 300 leaves, written in two columns, so fine that some columns have as many as 85 lines describing minutely 4,231 articles, all ending with a number which corresponds to that which is inscribed within a diminutive frame on the last leaf of every book.

The title is: *Registrum librorum don Ferdinandi Colon primi Almirantis Indiarum filii in quo tum auctorum quam librorum, eorumque magnitudinem, divisionem et impressionem reperiri datur, necnon tps loca et precium quibus ab eo prefata volumina fuerunt comparata.*

From this catalogue I learn that Fernando bought a great many books at Rome in 1515, and in Germany, Holland and Belgium in 1520 and 1522.

By his will Fernando bequeathed his library to Luis Colon, his nephew, with a condition that 100,000 maravedis (about \$1,200 of our money, but worth then a great deal more) should be expended annually in buying and binding books brought from Rome, Venice, Antwerp, Nuremberg, Paris and Lyons. In case Luis Colon refused to accept the legacy the library was to go to the Chapter of the Cathedral of Seville, and if the Chapter refused it then to the Convent of St. Paul.

When Fernando died, July 8, 1539, Luis, the heir, was in America, where he held his father Diego's title and office, and now claimed the library. The monks of St. Paul then seized and removed it to their convent. A suit at law was immediately brought by the Chapter; but it was not until 1551 that the books were restored to the latter and finally placed on the second floor of the Moorish wing of the Cathedral of Seville, where it still is, and open every day to the public. It is called 'Bibliotheca Colombina.'

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{ Vol. I. No. II.

## BOOK COLLECTING.

[From "Round and about the Book-stalls," by J. H. Slater.]

The publication of new books is nearly always dominated by one fixed principle, and that a pecuniary one; the purchase of old books, or books at second hand, may be actuated by a variety of motives, among which, perhaps, the question of money never enters at all. Many persons buy books to read or to consult, and do not trouble themselves with speculating on the probabilities of their rise or fall in the market in the near future or at any distance of time. These are the genuine bibliophiles, who read what they collect and can derive as much pleasure from the perusal of a battered volume, with which no bookseller would encumber his shelves, as the latter-day collector takes in contemplating the bindings of rare editions, kept out of harm's way behind glass doors, and which he bought because they cost money and because he thinks that in ten or a dozen years to come, or perhaps less, the pecuniary value will have increased. This type of bookworm rules the market, and nine-tenths of those who search the costermongers' barrows in Farringdon Road and the New Cut do so in the hope of picking up something which will not shame their judgment when the account comes to be balanced. I would not be so unjust as to suggest that books acquired from such a motive are never read: some of them doubtless are—many are not; most are merely skimmed, and then put away out of the reach of dust and dirt and the fingers of the unappreciative.

The quality of this class of collectors, like that of every other, is mirrored in what is to them current literature. The books they hunt after so laboriously, and buy from the dealer at great cost, or occasionally from the stalls for less than the market value, are indicative of the motive which prompted the purchase, and in a large number of cases this may be summed up in a single phrase—expectancy of gain. Collectors of this type may follow the fashion of the day, or they may bridge over time, and cast their speculations like

bread upon the waters, in the hope that they may be recompensed hereafter for their present self-denial. The former practice is easy, and leads to tangible results; the latter is just the reverse, for the future decrees of fashion, though they may be anticipated more or less successfully, can never be foretold with absolute precision.

At this moment there are books to be purchased for trivial sums which will eventually be worth their weight in gold: this much we know from a contemplation of the past; but to identify them among the mass of worthless literature visible on every hand is a matter of great difficulty, and, to a large extent, of impossibility.

For anything we know to the contrary, popular taste may some of these days find itself forced in the direction of philology, as was the case two hundred years ago. In this event the Latin or Greek Grammar which can today be bought for a few pence, may then be worth as many shillings, or perhaps pounds; and collectors will sigh for the good old days, just as they do now when they allow their thoughts to wander to the beginning of the century, and see in their mind's eye early Shakesperian quartos knocked down in dozens for two or three pounds each. Shakespeare has now become a name to conjure with, and in the place of two or three pounds, we must write four or five hundred, and that with difficulty.

How, then, can we prepare ourselves to take advantage, not only of present opportunities, but also of those which may, or at any rate should, occur in the future? There is only one way, that adopted by old Marley's ghost, which reproduced to the vision of Scrooge the events of the past and of the present, which inevitably led, or would have led, to those which were to come.

In journeying round and about the book-stalls nothing must be left to chance. When a book is taken up and thrown aside at the first glance, the reason which prompts the act must be based upon something more than the mere expression, "I do not want it; it is

no use to me"—from which it will readily be perceived that it is not to the reader, who has guides enough at his disposal, but to the collector, who has but few, that these remarks mainly apply.

In brief, we must search the past and critically examine the present before it becomes possible to speculate on the future. The ordinary course has been to reverse these processes, and the result has been precisely what might have been expected: the collector has in despair adopted the motto, "Sufficient for the day," and tamely followed the fashion. It remains for a new generation of book-hunters to make the fashion follow them; or, if this cannot be done, through lack of time or means, to come up with it on the instant of its turn. This sounds desirable: the question is, Can it be done? For my part I feel confident that it can, and I am confirmed in this belief by the result of one or two ventures which, though apparently more than speculative at the time, fell out eventually exactly as I had predicted.

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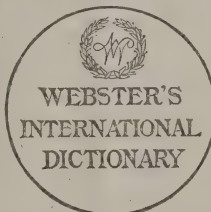
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{ Vol. I. No. 12.

## A SCHOOL OF COMPARATIVE JURISPRUDENCE IN WASHINGTON.

The accession of new students to the Law School of the Columbian University has been so large at the opening of the present session on the 1st of October, that the authorities of the University are now maturing their plans for the erection of a still higher department of graduate studies in law, to be known as the "School of Comparative Jurisprudence." The Columbian University was the first to establish a "School of Practice," in which the student, after having received the degree of Bachelor of Law, is taught how to apply the principles of law to the transactions of business life and to the actual proceedings of Courts, both State and Federal. In the newly projected School, it will be sought to carry the study of law into the realm of *jurisprudence*, strictly so called, and to provide a systematic course of *University* studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in law. In this school the jural thought of the world will be taught as a history and at the same time as a philosophy, ranging in its survey from the first rude germs of the clan stage of human government to the highest evolutions of juridical science, as seen in the Civil Law of Rome, the common Law of England, and the growing body of International Law. The codes of particular nations and of successive stages in human culture would here be passed in review, only so far as they mark the successive stages of human progress along the line of civil institutions, (after the manner of Freeman in his "Comparative Politics"); and along the line of legal institutes, after the manner of Sir Henry Sumner Maine, Scrutton Maitland, and others. It is designed that scientific studies in comparative anthropology shall form the indispensable preliminary to the special inquiries and task-work pursued in such a school of advanced studies in jurisprudence; so that the laws of the clan, of the tribe, of the village community, of the Greek city-state, of the Roman Empire, and of feudal Europe would be expounded in their proper logical sequence, as preparing the

way for a thorough and philosophical study of the English Common Law, of the Continental Pandects, of the Code Napoleon and of that supreme law of the civilized world, the Law of Nations.

The application of the comparative method to the phenomena of human society has been so fruitful of scientific results that Freeman, the English historian, does not hesitate to say that it stands next to the Revival of Learning in the impetus it has given to intellectual progress in all lines of inquiry. Anthropological science, by its comparative method, has already let in a flood of light upon obscure points in the jurisprudence of Europe and of Great Britain. All codifications of laws must proceed on the basis of such a philosophical knowledge, for it is only he who knows the points of the curve through which the human race has moved, and is moving, that can hope to understand the things that should be labored for in the next stages of social and legal progress. The science of jurisprudence, as studied in its deep historic sources, would thus become prophetic of that "line of safe change" on which, as a British scholar has said, the statesman and jurist *must* walk if they would become *true* reformers.

The Lectures of Mr. Justice HARLAN and Mr. Justice BREWER, of the U. S. Supreme Court, have already given a great stimulus to legal study in the Columbian Law School. It is announced that during the coming winter the Hon. EDWARD EDMUND BERMUDEZ, LL. D., the Chief Justice of Louisiana, will begin his special course of lectures before this school on the Civil Law. That course will be anticipatory of the larger and systematic course of Lectures on Comparative Jurisprudence which will come at a later period to give a higher curriculum of legal study and investigation than has yet been attempted in the United States. The authorities of the University believe that the time is ripe for such advanced studies; that Washington is the proper site for such a school; and that the Columbian Law School has reached a point in its development where

this next step has become, for it, comparatively easy and plain: With an addition of \$100,000 to the present endowment of the University, this proposed school would go into operation at the beginning of the next scholastic year. Its plan has been already sketched in outline by President WELLING, and the co-operation of learned professors has been already assured.

The importance of such philosophical studies in law was emphasized by President ANDREWS, of Brown University, in an address before the students of that institution at the opening of the present scholastic year. He said: "It seems to be taken for granted that elsewhere culture has been built up nearly or quite independently of legal institutions and reforms. So far is this from being the case that one may well doubt whether the tie between legal institutions and the progress of civilization was ever so close as in modern times. Few men in the last hundred years have done more for human advancement than Savigny, Bentham, John Austin, and Sir Henry Sumner Maine."

HANNIS TAYLOR, Esq., the learned author of the "Origin and Growth of the English Constitution," in a recent public address, has referred to this proposed School of Comparative Jurisprudence as a hopeful and significant sign of the times—affording as it does the augury that "the scientific study of jurisprudence, by the aid of the comparative method, is about to be established at the National Capital upon a broad and liberal foundation."

—JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN's wit was double-edged, and cut like a sword. His ruling passion was his joke, and it was strong, if not in death, at least in his last illness.

One morning his physician observed that he seemed to "cough with more difficulty." "That is rather surprising" answered Curran, "for I have been practicing all night."

While thus lying ill, Curran was visited by a friend, Father O'Leary, who also loved his joke.

"I wish O'Leary," said Curran to him abruptly, "that you had the keys of heaven."

"Why, Curran?"

"Because you could let me in," said the facetious counsellor.

"It would be much better for you, Curran," said the good humored priest, "that I had the keys of the other place, because I could let you out."—*Bigelow's Bench and Bar.*

## PARTICULARS OF CONTRACT OF MARRIAGE. 1544.

(Elizabetha Bodye parochie Sancti Botulphi extra Aldersgate et Johannes Bykeiton parochie Sancti Bartholomei parvi in Smythfeld contraxerunt matrimonium) per hec verba sequentia, vei eis in effectum consimilia; viz. the said John Bykerton havinge the said Elisabeth by the right hand, and speakinge to the said Elisabeth Bodye, said, howe saye yowe Elisabeth, can yowe fynde in your harte to forsake your fryndes and take mee, meaninge to her husbond; and the said Elisabeth conjunctis eorum manibus said yea, and the said John said I am contented, kysse me on that bargynne, and the said John and Elisabeth thereupon kyssed each other. Quodque post tractatam communicationem et contractum hujusmodi, dictus Johannes dyd send a lettre to said Elisabeth, which was delyvered her by Richard Hawowd oone of Maister Chidlayes servants, and by hyme redde; in which lettre the said John desired the said Elisabeth to sende hyme woorde, whether she were the same wooman she was before, meaninge when the said contracte was made and the said Elisabeth said to the said Richard, that she was the same wooman still, meaninge that she woold stande and abyde by the same promysse, made to the said John; and at the delyvery of the said lettre, the same Richard delyvered to the same Elisabeth a nutmegge, sayenge, he, meaninge the said John, hath sent youe this token; the which nutmege the said Elisabeth thankfully receyved; and after the premisses, the said John said to the said Elisabeth and other persones then presente, that he woold have the bannes axed between them, whereunto the said Elisabeth agreed.—*Hale's Precedents and Proceedings.*

—In the Equity Court to-day a candidate for citizenship appeared with his witnesses, both being in the uniform of the United States marine corps. Judge Cox asked the witness if the applicant was of good moral character.

"He is," replied the witness.

"How do you know?" asked the judge.

"We've served together five years," was the answer.

"Is he attached to republican institutions?" asked the judge.

"I can't say as to that, your honor, for I'm a democrat."

The court roared, and recovering, said: "Let the applicant be admitted."—*Washington "Evening Star."*



## LECTURES ON LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY.

We observe that during the coming winter Mr. A. S. Worthington, of this city is to deliver a series of lectures at the Law School of the Columbian University on the subject of Legal Bibliography. This is so far as we know, a new departure in legal instruction. Strange as it may seem, it appears never to have been thought necessary to inform law students as to the history and comparative value of the numerous reports, compilations and text books with which the shelves of law libraries are filled. The student becomes familiar with fifteen or twenty books which are of comparatively little use to him afterwards, because they are intended mainly for students and do not deal at length or in detail with the vexed questions which engross the attention of the practicing lawyer; but all beyond this is *terra incognita*. He does not know the meaning of the most common abbreviations of titles. "1 C. & P." is to him him all one with "2 B. & P." When he sees a case cited in "2 Rep." he thinks it is a mistake of the printer, and dreams not that the immortal Coke is the author of the reports. "Sug. on Ven." is no more to him than the latest catch-penny digest of cases on the law of real estate of which some student like himself is the compiler.

Mr. Worthington says his attention was first directed to this subject by hearing a leading lawyer in a court room out West cite a case from "2 Brock." when it was apparent that neither counsel nor judge knew whether the case was English or American, and nobody inside the bar suspected that the decision referred to was one made by America's greatest jurist.

The dearth of material for the preparation of such a course is remarkable. Wallace's Reports is the only book containing much more than a mere list of the names of law books. Wallace's book is well enough in its way but it is confined almost altogether to the old English reports of law cases. It deals only in the most summary way with the old Equity reports and does not mention the late English reports or any of the American reports. Text books are beyond its scope. The young lawyer who, on attempting to work up the law of his first case, finds by chance a text book on the subject involved, finds a lot of notes referring him to a wilderness of authorities cited by abbreviations

which he does not understand, and which too often, are all Greek to the mature lawyer at his elbow. In short he finds he has been taught a trade without being taught the names, much less the use, of the tools of that trade.

Certainly, the new chair at Columbian Law School bids fair to be at least as useful to the students at that institution as any of those which have their counterparts in other law colleges.

## NOTES.

—Patent attorneys in want of law books would do well to send us their lists.

—The new Supplement to the U. S. Revised Statutes will include the laws passed from 1874 to 1890-91. It is now in press and we hope to have it on sale early in November.

—Mr. Davis, of Clapham, left the sum of 5s. "to Mary Davis, daughter of Peter Delaport, which is sufficient to enable her to get drunk for the last time at my expense."—*Curious Wills*.

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—A young man, whose style bespeaks the place of his nativity, once wrote to his father thus: "Dear Father, I wish you would come and settle in this place, for your business is much better here than it is where you are; and, besides, I dare say you would soon get to be a colonel, a justice of the peace, a member of the legislature, or a constable, for in this country they have mighty mean men to fill these offices."

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## THE PUBLIC DOCUMENT QUESTION.

The joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on printing has spent a great deal of time since Congress adjourned last summer in the investigation of matters pertaining to public documents and the public printing generally. It has long been an admitted fact that great sums of money have been wasted in the production of printed matter which was of little or no use, and which speedily found its way into the tubs at the paper mills. There has been some lack of system and a steady increase in the number and bulk of reports from Departments, Bureaus and Divisions, besides a crude method of securing the free distribution of such literary gems as the knowledge-seeking farmer and general reader daily pined for, to say nothing of the higher products of the scientific departments. No other government in the world has undertaken to approach the generosity of the United States in this direction. While this is the freest and least paternal of all governments, and while the individual is so thoroughly left to his own resources, the theory of Congress has been, as shown by its action, to spend a portion of the public funds in the dissemination of such knowledge as would not be likely to become available through private enterprise, and which would increase the capacity of the people for good and helpful citizenship, and at the same time stimulate them to do something towards developing the country's resources. The theory has been proven good, and the money so spent has been well invested.

The printing has grown apace with the nation's progress, and has become so important an item in the economy of administration that it became necessary to give it careful consideration with a view to cutting off useless and hurtful items, and avoiding everything like prodigality.

With this end in view the 51st Congress

commissioned the joint committee on printing to investigate the whole subject of public printing, binding and distribution. That committee was eminently qualified for the work, as all the members of it were gentlemen of unusual intelligence and ability, besides having had long experience in that direction. They entered upon the work, too, with the single purpose of solving the problem of securing the greatest public good through the instrumentality of the best method they could devise. They examined into all the various branches of the great printing office, secured the opinions and advice of men familiar with all the phases of the existing system, and have now embodied their conclusions in a comprehensive bill.

Of course this bill will lead to great discussion, and it is possible that the committee may be glad to amend it in some particulars, as it is only reasonable that some good features may give way to better ones which extended debate will develop. But as the committee is evidently intent only upon achieving the best result it will, beyond peradventure, welcome any advantageous proposition.

—A bill has been introduced into Congress which provides for the purchase of the library of Mr. Hubert Howe Bancroft, of San Francisco. We have had the pleasure of examining this library, and we shall be glad to see it pass into the hands of the Government and become incorporated with the library of Congress. No such aggregation of rare Americana is to be found elsewhere, and it is at once evident that Mr. Bancroft has made use of the best efforts of the intelligent and discriminating collectors, who were wise enough to select and brave enough to buy even when prices were up to values. The most valuable things in the library are the hundreds of volumes of original manuscripts—rare and precious uniques—in Spanish and English; which have been carefully arranged and indexed. Upon these it is impossible to place a money value; they are priceless. Congress should at once purchase the collection, and thus secure this great mass of material from which the history of our country may hereafter be enriched.

## AT LAST.

One of the most remarkable facts in the history of Washington is this: With a population of a quarter of a million; with a larger percentage of readers amongst its white residents than any other city in the nation; with less hours of labor and therefore more time for mental employment, there is not in the District of Columbia a single free public library. Of limited libraries there are many: the great library of Congress; a library in every department of the Government, and in fact in many of the bureaus, which are open to the use of the employés. There are others equally important, but all restricted to a limited clientele. What is needed is a great free public library open all day and a part of the night, for the use of the public. It is gratifying to know that a bill has been introduced in Congress providing for such a library, which is to be located in the new post-office building, and is to be supplied by the transfer of all surplus and unnecessary books now in the library of Congress and in the various department libraries. The bill provides for a salary of \$2,500 for the librarian (which is not sufficient to pay for the talent required), and for assistants, but it makes no appropriation for accessions, as it is evidently supposed that it is to be born full grown, with wisdom teeth, and wit enough to keep up to the times without bothering about books and magazines that may hereafter appear. We hope some one may amend the bill far enough to let the librarian buy a new book now and then, as well as a magazine or two and a daily newspaper—for it is a fact, that once in a while there does appear a printed aggregation of mental pabulum having vitality enough to impress the gray matter of people who are not statesmen.

CAPT. BOURKE'S BOOK, the "Scatalogic Rites of all Nations," has met with a most flattering reception from scientific men in every part of the world (more particularly in England, France and Germany, as well as in the United States), and has received the heartiest endorsement from all sources. The demand for it has been steady, and still continues as it becomes known as a scholarly contribution to socialistic science. Capt. Bourke is a soldier of reputation and long experience in active service; he is a man of fine mental qualities, with earnest views of life, and is a scholar and an enthusiastic student. The work he has done is the result of a conscientious desire to aid the world to a better knowledge of the subject treated of.

## ANOTHER ENEMY OF BOOKS.

Those of our readers who have a copy of William Blades' entertaining little volume on "The Enemies of Books," should note that Mr. Flinders Petrie has discovered another and an ancient "enemy" while pursuing his investigations of Egyptian antiquities. The sources from which he recovered the important manuscripts recently given to the world were old *mummy cases*. Many of these cases are not made of wood nor of a solid and homogeneous mass of papier-maché or other substance; but, as has been suspected by others before, they are built up of single sheets of paper pasted one upon the other until the necessary thickness is obtained. In many cases the paper thus used is nothing less than old manuscripts torn up and put to this base employment. How many mummy-cases are thus composed of manuscripts is a matter of interesting speculation, as is also the question what priceless literary treasures have been thus disposed of. Mr. Petrie has shown that it is possible, after all these centuries, to resolve the mummy-cases into their original sheets, and so to cleanse and restore them as to make them legible. We think it quite right, therefore, after this to rank among the enemies of books the old Egyptian coffin-maker who would so ruthlessly tear up a now priceless manuscript of Homer, or Plato, or Euripides for such ignominious use. The possibilities of future discoveries that are thus opened up are incalculably great, and the prospect can scarcely fail to stimulate popular interest in Egyptian research.

—Marlborough confessed without blushing that he learned most of his history from the plays of Shakespeare, and Sir Walter has been to many the chief historian of Scotland. But what are tutors and examiners to say when an English Cabinet Minister places Alexandre Dumas among the authorities on historical subjects? "I will not go so far as to say," said Mr. Goschen, "before an audience of which erudite professors may form a part, that I have learnt as much French history from Alexandre Dumas as I have from far more famous historians, but I shall not very deeply resent the charge if it should be brought against me." We fancy that more than one student listened delighted to that sentence, and more than one professor with some slight dismay. But such as trembled may find some consolation in the fact that, however the Chancellor of the Exchequer may come by his history, he declines to study political economy at the feet of Mr. William Morris or Mr. Edward Bellamy. It would seem that there are limits to the use of the imagination. —*Publisher's Circular.*



## SECRETS OF STATE.

When President Harrison's recent message was finally published a weight of anxiety was lifted from the minds of the public printer and his foreman. The annual addresses of the Chief Executive to Congress are always nightmares to the Government Printing Office, and until they are formally received by the national legislature there is no sound sleep for the officials in charge. Their task is like the guarding of a treasure, for the possession of which a few hours in advance eager newspapers are ready to pay a fortune. Once, and only once, was a message stolen, and the incident has passed into history. Sixteen picked compositors set up the last message. They were chosen as usual for their trustworthiness. So secret was their task that if one of them had even said when the job was done, "I have been working on the President's message to-day," discovery of the fact would have caused his discharge. Four hours were required for putting the document into type, and during that time the selected men, grouped by themselves, were held under the watchful eye of the foreman. The copy, received in type script from the White House, was cut up into "takes" so small that no individual could make head or tail of his own. No one was allowed to see any proof of other takes than those which he himself handled, and all the imperfect proofs taken were gathered into a bag as carefully as if they had been so much gold, and burned in the furnace. Not a scrap was permitted to escape. The galleys full of type, as fast as they were made up, were placed on shelves in an iron room built like a safe. Whenever one was taken out a receipt was given for it, which was torn up when it was put back. Not less than two men were permitted to move a galley. Two proofs were taken finally of the completed message—one for the office and the other on fine paper for the President. The final proof was read by Arthur H. Brown, "Dictionary Brown," he is called, because of his marvelous accuracy about words. Sometimes compositors in the Government Printing Office have kicked at Brown's corrections of their work. Repeatedly they have called his attention to the dictionary and have shown him that Webster indorsed their own judgment. "So it does," Brown would say, calmly. Then he would correct the dictionary with pen and ink. His corrections were always right, too. Once he sent about twenty of them to the publishers

of the dictionary, who accepted all of them and made him a present of an elegantly bound copy. He suggested, it is said, several emendations in Mr. Harrison's recent message and they were adopted by the author. Any President is fortunate in having such a critic of his work before it reaches the public.—*Washington Evening Star*, Dec. 26, 1891.

—We have recently issued "A Random List of Legal Biography, International Law and Miscellaneous Legal Literature," and a catalogue of Law text books, reports, etc., which will be sent to any one asking for them.

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THE OFFICIAL RECORDS of the War of the Rebellion have progressed as far as Vol. XXXVII, pt. 2, serial number 71, and brings the matter up to a point well along in 1864. The first atlas of maps in the series has been also printed, and while the maps are not on so large a scale as those issued by the Engineer's Office, they are sufficiently distinct to answer every purpose of the student and investigator. The entire set so far as published is worth \$62.00.

THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVISED STATUTES of the United States has at last come from the printer. It was originally intended to make this "Supplement Vol. 2," but finally it was concluded to embrace in it all the laws since the Revised Statutes up to and including the 51st Congress. This was done, and so the old "Supplement Vol. 1" is now useless. To avoid confusion in this matter the new book is labeled "Supplement Vol. 1, Second Edition." We have made an arrangement whereby we will send this book to any address by registered mail for \$2.25, but the money must accompany the order.

THE MANUAL OF CONGRESSIONAL PRACTICE (the U. S. Red Book), which was prepared by Capt. T. H. McKee, and has just been published, commends itself to a large class of readers. The preparation of such a work was a great undertaking and few men are qualified for it, but Captain McKee has had years of experience in various departments of Congress, and thereby obtained knowledge of the infinity of detail prevalent in that body. The book is a clear and very full description of the methods of business in the Legislative Department of the Government, and it answers every question as to the method of enacting laws, the parliamentary usage, etc., and gives *facsimiles* which aid in elucidating matters. Those who are interested in knowing how Congress does business will find this to answer their purpose admirably.

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{ Vol. I. No. 14.

## THE NEW PRINTING BILL.

The Senate has passed the printing bill, but the feature which undoubtedly had most to do with originating the bill has been practically eliminated. The development of a bureau of distribution under the control of a superintendent, who should have directly under his care the dissemination of all books printed by the Government for distribution, was regarded as probably the most important proviso the bill contained, and this from the outset met the active opposition of many Senators and Members. It was argued that such a system of distribution would prevent duplication, and facilitate the handling of the books. The opponents of this idea argued that the prevention of the limited duplication was of minor importance compared with the increased expense of the bureau, that the system involved heavy additional cost in the matter of correspondence, and that the compulsory submission of their private lists of names of persons to whom they sent documents to the supervision of an official who was not intended to be an officer of Congress would enable him at any time to take advantage of his position to use said lists for partisan purposes. This last idea was so strongly urged that the bill was so modified as to exempt Senators and Representatives from its operation. Under the amendment adopted they may or may not have their books distributed through the Superintendent of Documents.

We think this was a mistake. If a superintendent is necessary to prevent duplication, then he must control *all* the distribution; otherwise, of course, the matter of duplication is beyond his control. If Congress, or any part of Congress, is exempted from the superintendent system, then all the other branches of the Government may as well be exempted. Congress distributes the great bulk of the documents, and there alone can duplication be prevented. In the Departments the lists are made up with great care, and the books are disposed of in the most

judicious manner possible—much more judiciously and satisfactorily than they can possibly be by a person unconnected with a Department and unfamiliar with its particular clientele.

The amended bill is now in the hands of the Printing Committee of the House, and will be reported favorably. While it does not wholly meet the views of the librarians of the country, it is a step farther in the desired direction and other steps will be taken later on.

## WALT WHITMAN.

A writer of unquestionable gifts, he was all his life an experimenter. Eager to be reckoned a pioneer, to do what had never been done before, he astonished the world with novelties, which too often turned out to be monstrosities. That ambition of his, intimated with so much vehemence and in such various ways, to satisfy the needs of the times with something peculiarly modern and democratic, something which should be independent of ancient models and innocent of ancient excellences, not unfrequently landed him in chaos. He repudiated the past without any clear vision of the future or the power of giving a poetic interpretation of the present. Lord Tennyson is the poet of his age, and between Lord Tennyson and Walt Whitman there is a great gulf fixed. One is a supreme master of harmony, the other seems to have had but the faintest notion of what harmony means. Whitman, indeed, had no genius for style, or if he had he was at great pains to conceal it. His work abounds in barbarisms of expression and crudities of thought. He has no grace or comeliness, nothing to attract the reader who loves poetry for its own sake.

And yet he was unquestionably imbued with the spirit of poetry. If it be true that "what distinguishes the greatest poets is their powerful and profound application of ideas to life" then time may prove that Whitman was one of the most considerable poets of his epoch. He strove with all his might to be a man, was anxious to look on the great and complex drama of life with purged and unbiased eyes, and to read its momentous lessons aright. He had a deep and sincere reverence for "moral ideas." Whatever his limitations in other respects, he saw clearly that the world is not to be saved by dilettantism. Deficient in sweetness, and often wanting in light, there is neither halting nor falsity

when he strikes the moral note. There is abundant evidence, too, that he has been a help and an inspiration to many a flagging soul. If his crusade against conventionality was carried on in too contemptuous a spirit to be completely successful, it was redeemed by its heroism from utter failure; and his writings, uncouth and rugged as they are, contain the essence of a noble and inspiring gospel.—*Publishers' Circular*.

*List of Treaties and Conventions between the United States and Foreign Powers, which contain Provisions for the Settlement of International Questions by Arbitration.*

Compiled by ELEANOR L. LLOYD, Smith College.

1. 1794, November 19.—Great Britain and United States. (1) Question of Northeastern boundary line of United States. (2) Claims growing out of the Revolutionary War. Settled by Commission of Arbitration.
2. 1803, April 30.—France and United States. Claims connected with cession of Louisiana. C. of A.†
3. 1814.—Great Britain and United States. Treaty of Ghent provided for settlement of claims to certain islands; also Northwest boundary. C. of A.
4. 1818, December 21.—Spain and United States. Indemnification for damages. C. of A.
5. 1819, February 22.—Spain and United States. Claims for damages. C. of A.
6. 1818, 1822.—Great Britain and United States. Convention signed October 20, 1818, to refer dispute about restoration of territories, private property, archives, etc., to Emperor of Russia. Award rendered in 1822. New Convention provides for Commission of Arbitration to determine valuation of property (slaves).
7. 1827.—Northeast boundary not having been yet settled, convention signed to refer question to King of Netherlands.
8. 1830, June 5.—Denmark and United States. Claims of citizens relating to damages and unlawful seizures. C. of A.
9. 1832.—United States and the two Sicilies. Claims for indemnification. C. of A.
10. 1834.—United States and Spain. Decision of claims to be left to Plenipotentiaries of the two Governments.
11. 1839.—United States and Mexico. Claims of United States citizens against Government of Mexico. C. of A. In case of disagreement of the Commissioners, the King of Prussia to be invited to arbitrate in person, or provide a substitute.
12. 1841.—United States and Peru. Claims of citizens of United States against Peru. C. of A.
13. 1846, June 15.—United States and Great Britain. Dispute regarding boundary line west of Rocky Mountains, referred to James Buchanan and the Rt. Hon. Richard Pakenham, "negotiators, with full power."
14. 1850.—United States and Brazil. Questions arising from long pending claims, to be settled by a commission of two.
15. 1851.—United States and Portugal. Claims of United States citizens, to be referred to Daniel Webster and J. C. de Figueira e Moras, Plenipotentiaries. Questions of public law involved in case of the privateer *Brig-Gen. Armstrong*, to be referred to arbitration of Louis Napoleon.
16. 1853.—United States and Great Britain. Old claims of citizens of United States, and of Great Britain. C. of A.
17. 1855.—United States and Great Britain. Question relating to Darien Ship Canal. [Correspondence relating to the arbitration of this question is to be found in "British and Foreign State Papers" for 1855-'56. I have been unable to ascertain whether the arbitration actually took place.]
18. 1857.—United States and New Granada. Claims of United States citizens for damages sustained in Panama riot of 1856.
19. 1858.—United States and Chili. "Macedonian Claims," submitted to decision of King of the Belgians.
20. 1859.—United States and Paraguay. Claims of United States citizens. C. of A.
21. 1860.—United States and Costa Rica. Claims of United States citizens. C. of A.
22. 1861.—United States and Venezuela. Claims of certain firms in the United States, referred to United States Minister at Venezuela and Secretary of State at Venezuela.
23. 1862.—United States and Ecuador. Claims of United States citizens. C. of A.
24. 1862.—Article I of Annex B to Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, for the suppression of African slave trade, contains a clause providing for reference of all cases of capture or destruction of vessels to arbitration.
25. 1863.—United States and Peru. Claims relating to ships *Lizzie Thompson* and *Georgiana*, to be arbitrated by King of the Belgians.
26. 1863.—United States and Great Britain. Claims of Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Agricultural Companies, referred to C. of A. Award not rendered till September 10, 1869.
27. 1866.—United States and Venezuela. Pending claims. C. of A.
28. 1868.—United States and Mexico. Claims since 1814. C. of A.
29. 1868.—United States and Peru. Arbitration of claims since 1863.
30. 1869.—United States and Peru. I find doubtful references to some question, apparently other than the above 29), submitted to the arbitration of King of the Belgians.
31. 1870.—United States and Brazil. Case mentioned in a "Memorial" presented to Congress in 1888. Not found in "Treaties and Conventions of United States."
32. 1871, February 11.—United States and Spain. The "Cuba Claims." C. of A.
33. 1871.—United States and Great Britain. "Alabama" Claims. Geneva arbitration.
34. 1871, May 8.—United States and Great Britain. Sundry claims of citizens, corporations, etc., during years 1861-'65, submitted to arbitration.
35. 1871.—United States and Great Britain. Nova Scotia Fisheries. C. of A. Dispute about fishing rights and about amount of compensation, if any, due to Great Britain from United States.
36. 1872, October 21.—United States and Great Britain. Boundary question, known as the San Juan Dispute; referred to Emperor of Germany.
37. 1879.—United States and Spain. All claims since October 1, 1868, not yet settled, to be presented within sixty days to a Commission of Arbitration.
38. 1880.—United States and France. Claims of citizens for acts committed during war of France with Mexico, or during the Insurrection of the Commune, in 1870-'71. C. of A.
39. 1884.—The United States, France, Great Britain, Germany, Spain, and Italy made an agreement for the adjustment of claims of citizens of those countries for losses sustained during the riots of 1883, September 22 and 23, at Port au Prince. [Foreign Relations of United States for 1884, page 302.]
40. 1885.—United States and Spain. Agreement to submit claims of bark *Masonic*, illegally seized by authorities at Manilla, 1879, to arbitration, in order to fix amount of indemnity.
41. 1888, December 6.—United States and Denmark. Claims of Carlos Butterfield & Co. for attack on their vessels by Danish officials, to be settled by the British Ambassador at Athens.
42. 1889, June 4.—United States and Venezuela. Provision for claims under treaty of April 25, 1886.
43. 1889.—United States, Great Britain and Germany. The Samoan difficulty.

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† Abbreviation for Commission of Arbitration.



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## REPORTS OF THE ELEVENTH CENSUS.

The House, on July 11th, passed the bill authorizing the publication of the final reports of the Eleventh Census as follows:

Compendium . . . . .	50,000 copies.
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Manufactures . . . . .	10,000 "
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It was finally decided not to print the statistics of the veterans of the late civil war. These would occupy seven large quarto volumes and would cost \$352,500. In the judgment of the Committee the result would not warrant such a large expenditure.

—THE Public Library at Los Angeles, California, has come into possession of a collection of old line engravings. It includes a portrait of Titian, by A. Carraci, 1587; "The Four Evangelists," in four plates, C. Van de Pass; Pomponne de Bellievre, and Mallier, Bishop of Troyes, by Robert Nanteuil; "Moses Holding the Tables of the Law," commenced by Nanteuil and finished after his death by Edelinck; the Count d'Harcourt, extremely fine, by A. Masson; "The Pancake Woman," C. Vischer; Louis XVI, whole length, C. C. Bervic; a bust of Raphael, after a picture by himself, inscribed, "Ille hic est Raphael," etc., 1787, by Sir Robert Strange; also "Belisarius," by the same artist; portrait of Leonardo da Vinci, R. Morghen; Napoleon at Arcole, Napoleon with the Iron Crown, Napoleon as King of Italy; "The Turk," and a portrait of Giovanni Longhi, by G. Longhi; St. John, the Evangelist, and the "Madonna di San Sisto," by J. Muller; portrait of Charlemagne, G. Caravaglia.

## LITTLE TRANSACTIONS IN BOOKS.

The man who goes exploring in old book shops sometimes makes discoveries which prove of value finally. Many keepers of these old places not only are ignorant of the value of many of their books, but do not even know what stock they have in trade. A man who "picks up" good bargains frequently, found a good edition of a certain history in a basement book shop the other day.

"What is the price of this?" he asked, holding fast to his discovery.

"Oh, I don't know," replied the owner, "what do you think it is worth? What will you give me for it?"

The would-be purchaser hesitated. He was human and did not want to pay more than was necessary.

"Will you give me a dollar," asked the bookseller.

"Yes," answered the other, promptly, and he handed over his dollar and took his volume of history.

Four days later he received a call from a stranger.

"I was in a book shop to-day," said the caller, and the owner asked me what —'s history was worth. I told him, and then he confessed that he had sold it to you for \$1. Now, I'll give you \$11 for it. Will you take it?"

The new owner was satisfied to make a clean \$10 so easily and consented. He is now wondering, however, if the third purchaser has disposed of the work, and if so, how much he has made on his bargain. You can't always be sure of such things.

—CONGRESS hasn't done anything with the printing bill, except to snatch patches out of it and stick them into the sundry civil appropriation bill. This demonstrated the fact that they had no confidence in the passage of the printing bill.

—THE original autograph commission of Captain Nathan Hale, of Connecticut, the martyr spy of the Revolution, was sold to a firm of autograph dealers for \$1,775. His State bid \$250. The owners hold it at \$5,000.

## HELPING YOUNG SCIENCE.

### How the Smithsonian Institution Acts as a Human Knowledge Exchange.

"One way in which this Institution 'increases and diffuses knowledge,' in obedience of the will of Mr. Smithson, is by extending aid to beginners in science," said Prof. Otis T. Mason to a *Star* reporter. "For example, we received a communication not long ago from a young man in the little town of Brookville, Ind. He was seized with an appetite for information about natural history and he wrote to ask if we would help him. Did we despise this modest request from an unknown source? By no means. We placed all our resources at his command, offering at the same time to put him in correspondence with the entire scientific world. Thus encouraged, he organized a local society, called the 'Brookville Academy of Science,' and already you would be astonished at the excellence of the library and museum established in that obscure place.

"The collections forwarded to us by the Brookville Academy of Science we distribute at our own expense, as well as the publications which it sends to us from time to time, dispatching them to whatever addresses may be indicated, and returning other printed matter and specimens. This sort of thing we are continually doing, being most anxious to give encouragement to beginners. Suppose, for instance, that John Smith of Oshkosh transmits to us twenty skins of birds obtained in that neighborhood, asking for certain other bird skins in exchange. We send his little collection to England, maybe, or to Russia, or South America, and get what he wants, delivering the specimens to him without any cost to himself. Our work in this line is carried on all over the world through paid agents and correspondents. If a person in Australia, who is making a study of marsupials, desires to secure some opossum skins from the United States in exchange for kangaroo skins we will see that he gets them, ourselves paying all the expense involved.

"We volunteer to do this for people everywhere in the world without cost to themselves. On being requested we will negotiate a trade in snakes between a correspondent in Honolulu and another in Bangkok, or we will manage an exchange of queer fishes between two naturalists, amateur or professional, in Werkojansk and in Bombay. The Smithsonian establishment is, in fact, a switch-

board, by means of which every scientific man in the world is placed in communication with all other scientific men. In former times scientists in various parts of the globe were not acquainted with each other's work, so that several persons might be pursuing at the same time the same line of researches independently, thus multiplying labor. At present all the scientific institutions everywhere send their publications to us for distribution, and we scatter them to all parts of the earth.

"This establishment, in short, is the world's central exchange for scientific literature and specimens; but no portion of our work is of greater importance than that which relates to the encouragement of scientific enterprise in its small beginnings. We desire people everywhere to know that the resources at our command are at their disposal; that we will assist them in every way, by procuring objects for their collections, by circulating their printed reports free of charge and by placing them in correspondence with all living workers in the field of human knowledge. By such means scientific work has been made so universal that there is no quarter of the globe to-day in which it is not carried on."—*Washington Evening Star*.

—THE growing importance of libraries as great educational institutions, and the increasing esteem in which they are held, is testified to by the large sums of money now being expended in the erection of splendid buildings for library purposes, as at Washington the Library of Congress; at Boston the Boston Public; at Chicago the Newberry and the Chicago Public; at Milwaukee the Public; at Pittsburgh the Carnegie; at Richmond the Virginia State Library, and so on. Others will follow very soon in other sections. The new building at Scranton, Pennsylvania, will be ready in October.

—IT was not the hot weather that delayed this issue of the BOOK CHRONICLE. In fact, there is no good excuse to be offered except that we had some ideas regarding it which we thought were calculated to produce very desirable results. About the time we had decided to carry them into effect we acquired a fresh supply of "horse sense," and dropped the whole scheme—so here we are, at last.

—FOR the despisers of higher education.—Theory without practice is absolutely a worthless commodity; practice without theory is worth about \$15 a week; and when both are well combined in one man of sound judgment, the combination is worth up to \$10,000 a year.—*Engineering Magazine*.

—IT is intended at Oxford to bring out a Bodley *fac simile* series, to consist of faithful reproductions of many of the rarest works in the library.



## WEED OUT YOUR LIBRARIES.

It is a fact which every owner of a library will confirm that the reluctance to weed out is the greatest of all obstacles to its collection. A private man who loves books, unless exceptionally rich, is always, as he advances in life, tormented by the difficulty of finding room for them. They grow and grow, and the wall-space does not grow, and the shelves do not grow either; and unless he resorts to the unspeakably detestable expedient of re-duplicating the books on each shelf—a device which not only destroys the back rows, but imperils their owner's chance of heaven, the book wanted being invariably lost for the time being, with results in evil wishes and language—there comes a time when he is at his wit's end. Not one room in ten will allow of shelves being set at right angles to the walls instead of along them, though that quadruples book-space; and the collector, with weary sighs, either heaps books above each other, or leaves them in packing-cases, or, in desperate emergencies, puts them on the floor. All this while, if he would only weed them, there would be plenty of room, and the opportunity of weeding is almost limitless.

We venture to say there are not five men in England possessed of 3,000 books apiece who do not know perfectly well that half their volumes are lumber, books which they will never read or consult or open for any purpose whatsoever. They are the books of forgotten periods of life, the books of whim, the books of abandoned studies, or, more numerous than all, the books about which their owner's only thought is a wonder how the devil they ever got there, books he can no more account for than he could account for the foolishness of early day-dreams, or for the morsels of absolutely useless knowledge packed away in his memory. He knows perfectly well the lumber ought to go to the auctioneer, but he never sends it, unless, indeed, he changes his house; nor, if he is rich enough to keep a "librarian," or library clerk, will that invaluable person send it; he is, indeed, insulted or made lachrymose by the very suggestion. Master and servant have both contracted a feeling which they would never defend, a feeling of respect for the library as a library, and independent somehow of what is in it. That is the universal British feeling, and is the main cause of the kind of wince with which an announcement like that of the Althorp sale is always received.—*The London Spectator*.

HICKCOX'S MONTHLY CATALOGUE  
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We beg to announce that we have purchased all the rights in this periodical, and will issue it hereafter regularly and promptly at the beginning of each month. Mr. Hickcox will compile and edit the work as heretofore, and no change will be made in its general character. We shall send out the first seven numbers of 1892 under one cover, and as rapidly as the matter can be prepared shall print the numbers necessary to complete the back volumes, and send them to the subscribers to those volumes.

The importance of the Catalogue as a systematic and accurate record of the vast, varied and important number of books and documents issued annually by Congress and the Departments must be apparent to every person who has occasion to consult such publications. The irregularity of its appearance in the past was due to want of sufficient support and we trust that such reason may not again discourage its prompt appearance, or worse, its discontinuance entirely. The enterprise is not likely to prove very remunerative, but we hope at least to command a sufficient amount of patronage to repay the actual outlay of money.

The Catalogue is a perfect index to ALL DOCUMENTS AND BOOKS issued by the United States Government during the month preceding its appearance, and at the end of the year contains an index for the twelve months. Its publication was begun in January, 1885. We have a few sets, and the price from beginning to end of 1892 is \$40.

The subscription price will remain as heretofore, \$5.00 per annum, and we appeal to every reader who is at all interested in the subject to send us his name for this year. Sample copies will be sent upon application.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER, 1892.

{ Vol. I. No. 19/6

—THE Columbus portrait is now on the tapis, and many schemes have been worked by various enterprising people in the vain effort to make it appear that they are the possessors of the only true portrait. The World's Fair managers have succeeded in inducing the United States Mint to place on the souvenir half dollar an effigy owned by Mr. Ellsworth, of Chicago, Mr. Ellsworth himself being a member of the local board of World's Fair managers.

There is not in existence a single scintilla of evidence that this so-called "Lotto Columbus" was painted as a portrait of Columbus, or that the artist who painted it was at any time in his life in Spain. The picture is a caricature of the discoverer, and ugly enough to cause him to gather together his 400-year-old bones and come forth to make one mighty kick against the slander. The Lotto Columbus will go forth to the world bearing the stamp of the U. S. Government, and the U. S. Government will thereby lend its endorsement to an effort to bolster up a claim to genuineness which has no foundation. Mr. Ellsworth's picture has no better standing than twenty other Columbus portraits, and if anybody can produce any word or sentence or record to establish the authenticity of the so-called Lotto Columbus we shall be under many obligations for the information. There is no Columbus in existence the authenticity of which can be established—and no man of reputation has yet been daring enough to make such a claim. There are pictures which are more clearly entitled to a belief in their genuineness than the so-called "Lotto portrait," such as the marine portrait in Madrid, and the Suardo portrait in Como, both of which comport with the descriptions given of the man, and both of which have some artistic merit, but neither of which have the Chicago "home influence." We doubt very much if ever the United States Government can make anybody believe in the authenticity of a picture which the best scholars and critics in the world have condemned as—well, let us say unauthenticated.

—DR. ELLIOTT COUES has been actively engaged preparing a new and important edition of Lewis and Clarke's expedition over the Rocky Mountains in the years 1804, 1805 and 1806, which will be published shortly by Francis P. Harper, New York.

It will comprise a faithful reprint of the Philadelphia edition of 1814, the best and only complete one, with a bibliographical preface, biographical sketches, and numerous valuable explanatory, ethnological, geographical, and scientific notes to the text by the editor. Maps, plates, and an index to the entire work will be added.

Dr. Coues is well fitted for this task, having made a specialty of the literature of the Lewis and Clarke expedition, and has been over the entire ground they explored. This new edition, which will be limited, will entirely supercede all others.

A prospectus giving full particulars will soon be ready and will be forwarded to anyone asking for it. We are authorized to receive subscribers' names. Address, W. H. Lowdermilk & Co., Washington, D. C.

—THE Board of World's Fair Managers, of Virginia, invite, for exhibit in the Virginia building, which will be a duplicate of the Mount Vernon residence of Washington, at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, contributions from publishers, authors, learned societies, and from all sources, of the works of Virginia authors, books and pamphlets relating to Virginia and Virginians, and books, magazines or newspapers published in Virginia. It is proposed to make the collection as complete and representative as possible, covering a period of nearly three centuries, from the establishment of the colony to the present time. The entire collection will be properly catalogued, and, at the close of the Exposition, deposited in the Virginia State Library. Contributions should be forwarded promptly to T. C. Morton, Secretary, 1103 Main street, P. O. box 361, Richmond, Va., who will make proper acknowledgment and see that they are properly placed.

—SIR JOHN LUBBOCK is a believer in novels. Addressing the students of the Morley Memorial College, Waterloo Road, the other evening, he said that, besides their historical value, novels teach us what is very important, a knowledge of human nature. To dwellers in towns Sir John thinks books are absolutely necessary, and we hope that his advice as to reading will be taken to the full. The dwellers in cities can not study nature first hand very conveniently. "Books, however," said the speaker, "will transport you to the green fields and downs, the woods and rivers, mountains and seashores. They will even take you abroad, and bring before you other countries—the sunny shores of the Mediterranean, the lakes and mountains of Switzerland, the beautiful islands of the Pacific; you may travel all over the world, without suffering from the heat of the tropics or the cold of the poles; you may visit Rome and Greece, and the wonderful cities of Egypt. Nowhere, again, is it possible to read with more profit than in London, because in the British Museum—the most magnificent museum in the world—in our picture galleries and elsewhere, you have specimens and monuments and pictures which do much to illustrate the books. We hear much now about the creation of a great university for London. But after all, as Carlyle well said, you have a university where you have a library."

—It is a truism to say that those who love reading are to a great extent independent of the caprices or tyranny of their fellow men, but it can not be too often repeated. Sir John Lubbock thinks there is hardly any trouble which an hour's reading will not diminish. A library, indeed, is not only the best university; "it is a true fairy land, a Paradise upon earth, a Garden of Eden without its one drawback, for all is free to us, especially the fruit of the tree of knowledge for which we are told that our first mother abandoned all the pleasures of Paradise." And this Paradise is so easy of access.—*Publishers' Circular.*

—MRS. MARY COWDEN CLARK is eighty-two years of age, lives in her own villa at Genoa and still often does some literary work with all her early enthusiasm.

—PROFESSOR BRICE has revised the whole of his "American Commonwealth" and has added several entirely new chapters for this fall's edition.

—THE Hakluyt Society are about to issue, in two volumes, Pietro della Valle's eight letters from India, edited by Mr. Edward Grey, late of the Bengal Civil Service. The same society will issue next year, also in two volumes, the voyages of Capt. Luke Foce and Capt. James to Hudson's Bay, edited by Mr. Miller Christy. Mr. Clements Markham, the distinguished president of the society, has lately been staying at Genoa and studying the Columbian record. He has promised to contribute a collection of unpublished early voyages to America—fragments relating to Cabot, Cortereal, Vespucci and Verrazzano. Mr. Delmar Morgan, the genial honorary secretary of the Hakluyt, has in contemplation the publication of an edition of the letters of Peter Martyr d'Anghiera, the chronicler of the great events of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. Meanwhile, Dr. Robert Brown's edition of "Leo Africanus" is nearly ready for the printer; and the same may be said of a book on early English voyages to the Levant, with some account of the Levant Company, by Mr. Theodore Bent. Mr. Everard im Thurm, who is now in England on leave of absence from British Guiana, hopes to devote two months of work at Torquay this autumn to his addition to Schomburgk's very admirable volume of Sir Walter Raleigh's "Empire of Guiana."

—WILLIAM STRANG, the Scotchman whose etchings were shown last year at the Wunderlich Gallery, has published with Elkin Mathews and John Lane, of London, a book of verse written and illustrated by himself. It is called "The Earth Fiend," and tells of a farmer whose crops are devastated by a goblin, and who at last overtakes and conquers the latter. The "lubber-fiend" works so hard for his conqueror that the farmer gets rich and careless, so one day his slave takes him unawares and breaks his neck. Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse in the *Academy* speaks very highly of the etchings, especially that one which shows the earth fiend asleep in the fields.

THE Prince de Condé, the well-known collector, has purchased the autograph manuscript of Tasso's prose treatise in defense of his great poem. It is in 300 pages, and is believed to be with its erasures entirely in Tasso's handwriting.



—ONE of the most interesting exhibitions in connection with the recent Orientalist Congress in London is a collection of tools used by workmen in building the pyramids of Egypt. They were gathered and are exhibited by the illustrious Egyptologist, Mr. Flinders Petrie. These utensils indicate that ancient workmen had an astonishing acquaintance with many tools which we have been accustomed to consider essentially modern. Among the exhibits are solid and tubular corundum-tipped drills, and straight and circular saws, and chisels described as "not a bit inferior to those now used."

—ONE of the most significant curios in New York is a copper globe in the Lenox Library. It is only four and a half inches in diameter, but it is believed to be the earliest globe to lay down the new discoveries by Columbus. It dates back to the first decade of the sixteenth century. The little it shows of this hemisphere is mostly wrong, and the few names would be recognized only by experts in matters geographical, but the globe is rightly esteemed one of the chief treasures of a rare collection.

—THE "Wealth of Nations" is within the reach of the humblest laborer who knows how to buy and use a few good books. How large an investment in unperishable riches can such an one make with a five dollar bill.

—IN these days of many books it is well to remember that the remedy for too many books is one book. He who has no favorite author, no well-thumbed volume on his shelf, who does not love one poem above another and can not put his finger upon the book, the time and the place, that brought to him enrichment, encouragement or inspiration never to be forgotten, has not yet fairly begun his culture.

ONE of the rarities of the book market is the little volume of "Verses" which were written by Christina Rossetti at seventeen, and published for her by her grandfather, Gaetano Polidori. The book is so seldom seen as to be practically unobtainable.

—THE COLD SHOULDER TO AMERICANS—Americans of the fair sex are inveterate "shop-viewers," and pass away a good deal of their time in that agreeable occupation, evidently to the great chagrin of a proprietor of a certain "curio" shop in Wardour street, who has placed a large card in his window

bearing this inhospitable legend: "Notice to Americans: This is not a public museum."—*From London Fame.*

—ONCE a collector, always a collector. The Philadelphia *Press* states that one of the most complete and unique collections of newspaper clippings ever made, perhaps, was badly damaged by fire in that city recently. It belonged to an invalid who for years has cut out selections from the biographical, political and news matter of different daily journals, and pasted the clippings so obtained on sheets for filing, after the manner of a library card catalogue. The owner, nothing daunted, has set about buying old newspapers to repair, as far as possible, the gap caused by the fire.

—THE "A. L. A. Council" is the name of a species of library senate organized by the American Library Association. They elected by ballot, ten librarians, regarded by them as the leading ones in this country, who in their turn selected ten others, thus making a body of twenty, each member's term to last five years. As the council is small and has advisory powers of a good deal of importance, the probabilities are that the number of their meetings will be increased and library work of some moment be completed, which would be impossible to the whole Association, with its large membership.

—ONE HE HAD NOT GOT.—"You keep dictionaries, I suppose?" he said in response to the clerk's polite inquiry as to what he wished.

"Yes, sir. We have all of them. Is there any special dictionary you would like to look at?"

"You have all kinds, you say?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then you may show me the bright lexicon of youth which has no such word as fail."

—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1893.

{ Vol. I. No. 17.

—THE proposition to establish a free public library in Washington for the use of the public has no opponents amongst the people who are to enjoy its advantages, but there is a lively difference of opinion amongst the Senators and members of Congress as to the details of the matter. The proposition to locate it in the new post-office building does not meet with universal favor, because it will cost a considerable sum to make the necessary preparations and changes in the building to fit it for the purpose, and because, it is alleged, that every foot of space in the building will be required for other purposes.

Another objection occurs in the fact that this library is to be secured by taking the books from all the Department libraries, and the "surplus" from the Congressional library. This does not seem to be quite satisfactory, because there is difficulty in knowing what books can be spared from the Department libraries without disadvantage to the public service. The State Department library would be ruined by carrying any large part of it away, as most of it is liable to be wanted at any time in the ordinary course of business. The Navy and War Departments have libraries more especially used for office purposes than otherwise—in fact they are made up almost entirely of books pertaining to their respective branches of the service, with, of course, a moderate number of volumes for miscellaneous readers. The Treasury Department would find itself a good deal hampered if it should be required to send down street for the books it needs day after day on ever-recurring questions.

In the Patent Office and Agricultural Department the libraries may be designated as technical, since they are made up with a view entirely to the official work of their branches.

Altogether it would seem as though it is hardly possible to take from the Departments without doing more harm than good. The practice nowadays in all large cities is to avoid the concentration of the library in one section, but rather to establish branches in all direc-

tions and so contribute to the convenience of the people in every locality. Large sums of money are expended yearly in Chicago, Baltimore and elsewhere in the support of branches so located as to offer inducements to the people. This policy is already in operation here in the most practical and advantageous manner. In every Department are to be found thousands of people who would be subjected to extreme inconvenience if compelled to go to a distant point for books which are now at their hand.

After all, it might be well to consider the feasibility of leaving the present Department libraries intact, and establishing a free public library just as other cities have done. A tax of one-fifth of a mill on a dollar has built a fine library, and the tax payer has not felt it. With all the advantages now possessed, Washington will find it a very easy matter to establish a central public library as a supplement to those now existing, and the investment will prove a wise one.

—THE Department of Labor, under Col. Carroll D. Wright, does an immense amount of work, and it is almost inconceivable that so small a force should be able to accomplish so much. Not only has a great volume of work been done, but it is all of the most exacting character, requiring pains-taking care, close application and a certainty of correctness. The statistics gathered, compiled and formulated have borne the test of investigation, which is simply the result of allowing the facts to appear without regard to anybody's theories. The eighth annual report is almost ready for submission to Congress, and will be devoted to Industrial Education. Later on special reports will also be submitted, on the German system of compulsory life insurance amongst the workmen, and the Göttingen system of regulating liquor selling, both of which subjects are attracting much attention at present.

—At Sotheby's, in London, was recently sold a first edition of Tennyson's "Poems of Two Brothers," for £14; and at Puttick and Simpson's a large paper copy of the same work brought £30.

## THE COLUMBIAN STAMPS.

According to the annual report of the Postmaster-General, the printing of the Columbian stamps will cost the Government 17 cents per thousand. It is announced in the report that for the reasons that led to the introduction of the Columbian adhesive postage stamps, arrangements have been made for issuing at the same time a special series of Columbian embossed stamped envelopes. The new issue will consist of eight different sizes, selected in part from those in the regular series, and they will be made of the same standard of paper as that in the best quality of envelopes in present use. The color of the paper will be light cream, instead of white and amber, as in the present style, and it will be specially water-marked. The denominations are 1, 2, 5 and 10 cents. The design of the stamp is circular in form, of somewhat large size, and contains as the principal features the heads of Columbus and Liberty in profile, with words to indicate the character and value of the stamp. The colors will be the same as those of the Columbian adhesive stamps of corresponding denominations.

Cabling from London to *The Times* of this city, Mr. Harold Frederic says: "The announcement of details as to the new Columbian postage stamps going the rounds of the European press is much discussed. Stanley, Gibbons & Co., who are the biggest dealers here, tell me that there are at least 2,000 dealers in Europe who are likely to buy quantities of these stamps, and say that, as near as they can make a guess on such a thing, it will be a moderate estimate that during the coming year Europe will absorb \$200,000 worth of them for collectors. A number of South American States have for years raised considerable sums in this way by annual changes in gaudy sets of stamps, but the Washington enterprise will throw everything of that sort wholly in the shade."

—SENATOR KASSON has presented to the Aldrich Collection at Des Moines, Ia., a valuable lot of autograph letters from such hands as Chief Justice Chase, Baron Gerolt, Prussian Minister to the United States in 1861; Gabriel G. Passanea, Spanish Minister; Baron Dubs, Swiss Minister; Lord Lyons, British Ambassador; Montgomery Blair, Horace Greely, George Bancroft, Andrew Johnson, Judah P. Benjamin, Wm. H. Seward, Simon Cameron, General Fremont, General Wool, Abraham Lincoln and others, mostly of the civil war period, and some of special reference value.

## U. S. OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE, JUST PUBLISHED.

The report of the Postmaster-General states that over \$2,000,000 in checks, drafts and money, reached the dead-letter office during the past year through improper addressing. Probably double this sum has been lost through delays and accidents resulting from carelessness in mailing and correspondence. To reduce these errors to a minimum, the Government issues "The United States Official Postal Guide," in an annual number published in January, and monthly supplements, a book of 960 pages, containing three classified lists of the 68,000 post offices in the Union, together with postal rules and mail regulations. Every merchant, wholesale dealer and professional man having correspondence, will find the "Guide" indispensable. It is also of great assistance to lawyers, printers and others in translating illegible writings. No establishment where care and accuracy are observed as rules, is complete without it. The price of the "Guide" in paper is \$2.00; in cloth, \$2.50.

—EDUCATIONAL benefactions and monumental gifts are the order of the day, and certainly great wealth is being worthily bestowed. The University of Chicago has received another million dollars; Dartmouth College \$185,000, and Johns Hopkins \$300,000 from a woman for the endowment of a Medical School for men and women on "equal terms."

—THE magnificent library building on Capitol Hill, facing the National Capitol, has so far progressed that the present year will see the stone work completed and the building closed in. It promises to be the finest and best adapted structure of the kind in the world, and will have a capacity of 5,000,000 books. It is not improbable that some parts of the great building may be made use of temporarily by the Government for purposes other than those for which it was intended, as it will be many years ere its vast halls will be needed for library purposes. It is likely that an underground railway or pneumatic communication with the Capitol will be provided so that books may be delivered on the floor of either House of Congress, when desired, as promptly as they now are. Mr. Bernard Green, who is supervising the construction, has developed about every useful appliance that can be thought of in the interior arrangements.



## PREHISTORIC ENTERPRISE.

Mr. C. F. Gunther keeps a candy store in Chicago. The second story thereof is a curiosity shop. Among the curios is a part of the skin of the serpent that tempted Eve. The genuineness of the relic is attested by two church dignitaries, under their seals. This may be the first announcement of the presence in the Garden of Eden of a Chicago man. He killed the snake, and saved the hide for a side-show in his town. Had he been on the ground half an hour earlier he would have "held up" the serpent, kept Adam and Eve from falling, prevented the Chicago fire, made all kinds of insurance needless, and saved the human race. He did the best he could in that environment, and his arrangements for preserving the skin 6,000 years and forwarding it to Chicago entitle him to a monument higher than the Auditorium tower. The Chicago man is always in a hurry. On the whole—we have had many centuries to deliberate in—we are inclined to the belief that it was a mistake to kill the snake. The thing had gone so far. Adam "busted," Eve sure to be loaded down by cowards with eternal curses, the human race side-tracked, Paradise a sarcasm—it was really rather small business for the pre-Adamite to go after that snake with a club; too small salvage for such a big loss. But Chicago is ahead of Europe on snake skins.

—THE Regents of the University in New York have adopted a new system of "traveling libraries" which promises to be of much benefit to the people of the State. These libraries consist each of 100 carefully selected volumes. They are lent to those local public libraries which are subject to the Regents' visitation, as well as to communities where there is now no public library but where 25 resident tax payers unite in an application. A moderate sum is charged to defray the cost of casing, transportation, etc. Certain guarantees are required for the safe keeping and proper use of the books, and some other stipulations have to be made in specific cases. The loan is for six months, at the end of which period there is to be a general shifting about of all the libraries.

—THE DILETTANTE—"You ought to see Mrs. Thompson's magnificent home! It's just full of Corots and Millets." The parvenu—"Terrible! Why doesn't she try insect powder?"

—IN the little old brown school house on the hillside some of us read the story of the dog who, "like a miner wide-awake, he had been and raised a stake." Crossing a bridge, he thought he saw another dog and more meat below and went for him. We know the sad result. The moral is a good one, and a Kansas poet puts it in this way:

"When a man has raised a stake,  
If he labors then to make  
Some poor neighbor drop his meat,  
It insures his own defeat.

"No one merchant yet was made  
Who could gobble all the trade.  
Painfully misfortune pelts  
Those who reach for someone else.

"No one bulldog yet could eat  
Every other bulldog's meat.  
If you have a good-sized bone,  
Let the other dog alone."

If this should strike the eye of the dry-goods-millinery-spool-cotton bookseller, he may, by repeating it over to himself an hour, find a moral therein.

—THE Hon. James G. Batterson, of Hartford, Conn., is the owner of the Greek grammar that was used by Alfred Tennyson when a boy at school. The precious literary relic was willed to Mr. Batterson by a New York friend, who had himself received it from a friend in London who got it years ago. There is no possible question of its authenticity. On the first blank page the boy sketched the teacher with a rod in his hand and perhaps some clerical visitor with spectacles and a book, and a long-haired and long-legged person, perhaps the school dude, declaiming. He also wrote there his own name. On the second page is drawn a strong, expressive face, and also an attempt to outline the seal printed on the title page of the book. There is also a handwritten Latin sentence.—*The Collector*.

—A CINCINNATI police officer advances the novel idea that each man on the force should be furnished with a snap-shot camera to photograph suspicious characters.

—THE new "Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words and Phrases," a very useful work by a quite learned Englishman, defines a *ranche* as "a small farm or cattle run." He does not, however, venture to give metes and bounds, which is a pity.

—A PARVENU—"This is the portrait of the founder of our house. He fought under William the Conqueror."—"I suppose you are very proud of him?"—"Well, hardly. You see, he is the only one of our house since its foundation who had no ancestors."—[Life.

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{ Vol. I. No. 19.

## DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS OF A FAMOUS PRINTER.

ON Wednesday, April 12, 1893, a number of representative men assembled at the catacombs of Christ Church, Birmingham, to witness the opening of a cell in which there was reason to believe the body of John Baskerville, the famous printer, was interred. Baskerville was, at his death, in 1775, buried in his garden; but the coffin was taken up, in 1821, when a canal was cut through the estate. For some years the coffin was stored away in certain warehouses, and ultimately was privately buried. It was reputed to have been deposited in various places, but the most probable location was the catacombs of Christ Church. There was, however, no register of such burial, but the churchwardens making search found one cell sealed up and unregistered. This, on being opened, was found to contain a lead coffin, onto the end of which had been soldered printer's types, forming the words, "John Baskerville." The coffin being opened, remains were found of dimensions corresponding with the descriptions which have been given of Baskerville's person. Some putty and a glazier's knife were found in the coffin, but no manuscript or inscription.

—AT nine o'clock of the morning, on October 31, 1676, at the house of Dr. Lazarus Seaman, in Warwick Court, Warwick Lane, London, began the first book auction that ever took place in England. The little world of book-collectors was immensely taken with this new method of book-buying. The catalogues of the first auctions soon came to be regarded as curiosities, and the price fetched by each lot was carefully recorded. The auctioneers were no less interested. They wrote prefaces to the catalogue of each sale, giving their reasons for the various auction rules, which soon came to assume a form closely similar to those now in use.

—AMONG the Government exhibits at the Columbian Fair there is a turn-table stack of official publications. These, in gay bindings, attract the eyes of many passers-by, and incline some weary wayfarers to look at their contents. It is a pity so many of them were so carelessly compiled. Seeming to speak with authority, they will stereotype errors in readers who can not, or will not, "go behind the returns." One attractive volume is a "Statistical Abstract of the United States, Fifteenth No., 1892." In this work one heading is, "Date of admission of new States into the Union," and the date of the act of Congress admitting Wisconsin is given as March 3, 1847. This statement makes that State about fifteen months older than it is represented in hundreds of Wisconsin books, and so naturally excites surprise. The Abstract, however, cites a supreme authority—the United States Statutes, vol. ix, p. 178. Turning to the volume and page thus referred to, we discover that an act was passed by Congress at the time mentioned in the Abstract, admitting Wisconsin into the Union—not, however, unconditionally, but provided that the electors there should assent to a Constitution which had been adopted by a Territorial Convention December 16, 1846. The writer of the Abstract ought to have ascertained whether that Constitution was assented to. He inferred or fancied that it was, and so was betrayed into error. The truth is, that that Constitution was rejected by 20,431 negative votes, against 14,119 affirmative. The act of Congress was thus nullified, and Wisconsin remained a Territory till May 29, 1848 (see acts of first session of Thirtieth Congress, chap. 50), when it in fact attained to Statehood. As to the admission of other States, there seem to be similar blunders.—*The Nation*.

—W. H. THACKARA, of Lancaster, Pa., possesses a thick quarto Bible, bound in buff calf, printed in 1612; and also owns a copy of the sermons of Hugh Latimer, who was burned at the stake in 1555, printed in 1578.

—IN connection with the rarity of the autograph of Thomas Lynch, Jr., of South Carolina, the youngest of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, a story is going the rounds which is good enough to tell, even if one does not quite swallow it whole. It states that, a few years ago, at a sale of odds and ends of letters found among Washington's effects, Dr. William B. Sprague, of Albany, got hold of a letter from Thomas Lynch, Jr., to Washington, recommending the appointment of a friend of his to a place in the Continental army. He sold this letter to Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet for \$700. An autograph dealer offered Dr. Emmet \$4,000 for it, and got it. He sold it to Augustin Daly for \$4,500, and then Dr. Emmet, repenting of what he had done, bought it back again for \$5,250. As the Italian proverb goes: "*Si non e vero e ben trovato.*"

—J. K. MENTZER, of Lancaster, Penna., has a Bible 362 years old. The printer was Christoffel Froschouer, of Zurich. The Bible came over in the ship in which William Penn made his second trip to America. Aboard the vessel was a family named Tchantz, now translated to Johns, and they owned the book. The maiden name of Mr. Mentzer's grandmother, on the father's side, was Tchantz. She was a descendant of the emigrants and owned the precious volume, which was bound in pigskin, the corners and the centers of the heavy lids being ornamented with brass pieces.

—THE library of the Hon. John Sherman is estimated by its owner to comprise some 15,000 volumes. It is liberally distributed through his home at Mansfield, Ohio, but is methodically and systematically arranged. Senator Sherman's collection of autographs is of inestimable value and comprises correspondence from great men in and out of politics, the world over.

—C. YEAGER, of Allegheny, Pa., owns a Bible printed in Zurich in 1666, that was buried a year during the Revolutionary War, to preserve it from the Hessians, and that weighs twenty-five pounds.

—COL. S. C. SLAYMAKER, of Lancaster, Pa., owns a small quarto Bible, printed in Latin, by Henry Middleton, in London, in 1581, and copiously annotated, besides probably more old books than any other man in the State.

—HENRY WEISEL, of Hellerton, Pa., has in his possession a Bible dated 1541, which weighs fifteen pounds.

—NO DOUBT thousands of people are interested in knowing all about the publications of the U. S. Government. Of course they can get a little bit of an idea from the BOOK CHRONICLE, but in order to know *all* about it, it is necessary to subscribe for *Hickox's Catalogue of the Publications of the United States Government*, issued monthly. This was begun in 1885, and is the only record of Government publications for that period. It is an alphabetical list of publications for each month, with an alphabetical author and subject index at the end of the year. Certainly every library should have it for reference, and it isn't a bad thing for a good many other people to have. We have about 20 sets still available, and the first 20 applicants get them—from 1885 to '93, nine volumes, for \$45.

—QUITE a number of members of the American Library Association, and a few other librarians from abroad, were in Washington on the 11th, and the special train on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad carried more than a hundred of them West to Chicago, where the International Congress is now in session. While here some of them visited the new library building, and were shown all over it by Mr. Bernard Greene, who has had charge of its construction, and who has developed an extraordinary faculty for finding out what a library building needs, as well as the best method of supplying all those needs. A visit to this building insures an education in library architecture and fixtures, as a result of personal observation, and it is safe to say that the builders are giving a great impetus to every section of the country in that direction.

In a few years Mr. Spofford's big library will jump into a new uniform, and we shall then see what a great and valuable collection the country possesses in books, maps, manuscripts, pictures, etc.

SWAN SONNENSCHN & Co., London, have in press "The Story of Louis XVII of France," by Elizabeth E. Evans, author of a recent work on "Caspar Hauser." She aims to prove that the Indian missionary, Eleazer Williams, was the son of Louis XVI, and to show the futility of the claims of Naundorff and other minor pretenders.

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—THAT ever-philosophic jester, J. Armoxy Knox, remarks in his new paper, *The Mount Vernon News*, "About thirteen hundred years ago, a man named Hierocles made a collection of all the jokes that he could find recorded. Through the papyri of the Egyptians, the waxen tablets of the Greeks, and the parchments of the Romans he searched. His search resulted in the discovery of twenty-four jokes that he considered worth recording. Twenty-four jokes! Just think of it! Only two dozen witticisms made in forty-five centuries. They made a joke every two hundred years, did our facetious forefathers, bless their funny old hearts."

—RUDOLPH E. KELKER, of Harrisburgh, Pa., owns Bibles printed by John Mentzel, Strasburg, 1466; Eggesteyn, Strasburg, 1469; Koberger, Nuremberg, 1477; another, 1480; a Latin Bible, Venice, 1486, and a German Bible, 1470-3.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER, 1893.

{ Vol. I. No. 20.

—THE American Jewish Historical Society has shown good judgment in the selection of its officers, having for President, the Hon. Oscar S. Strauss; for Vice-Presidents, Dr. Charles Gross, Prof. John B. McMasters, and the Hon. Simon W. Rosendale; and for Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Cyrus Adler, of the Smithsonian Institution. The object for which the society was organized being not sectarian, but American, there are observable in the roster of its officers and members men of different creeds. In his opening address, now printed in the society publications, the president explained why the relations of Jews to the discovery of this continent and the participation in the early settlement of the colonies have not been fully disclosed. The papers now printed cover a variety of topics. One by the late Charles C. Jones, of Georgia, on the "Settlement of the Jews in Georgia" will recall the memory of its writer, as it was about the last contribution from his gifted pen. A most curious paper is Mr. J. H. Hollander's, entitled "Some Unpublished Material Relating to Dr. Jacob Lumbrozo, of Maryland." Lumbrozo was known as "ye Jew doctor." While there were other Jews in Maryland before the middle of the seventeenth century who denied or concealed their faith, Lumbrozo was outspoken. In 1658 he was committed for "blasphemy," but in 1663 he stood so high in public estimation that to him were granted letters of "denizacion." Mr. Robert Friedenwald's "Jews in the Journal of Continental Congress" is an important contribution.—*The Collector*.

—THE New York Historical Society has purchased the land between West Seventy-sixth and Seventy-seventh streets, which faces Central Park, and proposes to erect a building for the reception and exhibition of the priceless treasures which it possesses. The property has a frontage of 204 feet on Eighth avenue, and a depth of 125 feet on the adjoining streets. It cost \$300,000, and is regarded by the members as a location most

suitable for the society's future growth and prosperity. Although the plan and estimates have not yet been completed, it is believed that the erection of the structure will involve an expenditure of nearly \$1,000,000. The committee having the matter in charge has thus far submitted no report, but it has been suggested that an active effort should be made to procure a sum sufficient to build on one-half of the site as soon as possible.

—ONE of the most remarkable collections of curiosities in America is that made by Mr. Chas. F. Gunther, and located in Libby Prison, Chicago. We have recently examined it, and while we knew a large collection had been made, we were wholly unprepared for its extent and importance. The relics of the war, arms, armor, implements, uniforms, accoutrements, portraits, etc., are supplemented by rare autograph letters, manuscripts, etc. It is a historical object lesson of immense value. The wonder is that one man could find the time and possess the energy, and spend the money to secure what appears to be an aggregation so great and so varied as to occupy a life time of industrial pursuit.

—ONE gratifying effect of free lectures for the poor is the greater frequency of the demand among them, both at the free libraries and shops, for books which they hear mentioned or quoted, and feel desirous of reading. There is something pathetic and hopeful in the accidental humor of the book titles they jot down as aids to memory; the humor of inadequate knowledge brought to the assistance of the erewhile unknown. From such lists we cull these examples: "The Works of Mac Sadler" (Max Adeler); "The Quinsey's Opium-eater"; "Jane Hair"; "The Middle Ages of Alum" (Hallam); "Story of Andrew Mackay" (Andromache); "Maud Arthur" (Morte d'Arthur); "Shoppinghour" (Schopenhauer); "Lamb's Asses of Elias"; "Carlyle's French Revelation"; "Dictionary of Verbal Words"; "The Decline of Gibbon."—*Publishers' Circular*.

## WHAT A LIBRARIAN IS.

ST. DUNSTAN'S HOUSE, E. C.,

July 28, 1893.

Of the many servants of the public, few, we fancy, are less considered than the custodians of large libraries. The duties of the librarian, if thought of at all by his patrons, are vaguely supposed to be light and pleasant, requiring only an agreeable exercise of mind and no bodily exertion whatever. But such suppositions are wrong. The Library Association has just issued, through Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., a pamphlet on "Public Library Staffs," by Mr. P. Cowell, Chief Librarian of the Liverpool Public Libraries, which will probably be a revelation to most people; and is to be especially recommended to the careful attention of young men ambitious to get charge of public collections of books. They will learn from it what an efficient librarian ought to know and to be; they will see that "the craft of librarianship" is not all beer and skittles, that the work it involves is hard and onerous, and that it calls for qualifications not possessed by everybody or anybody. Though there are doubtless born librarians, the most gifted benefit by a course of special training, and most are useless without it. "There was a time," Mr. Cowell tells us, "when an ex-police-man, a soldier, or someone of equal status, education, and training, was believed to be capable of discharging the duties of a librarian; but, fortunately for readers and libraries, that time has gone by." Nor is it likely to return, for the librarian's knowledge and capacity are now tested by "professional" examination.

There are innocent people, it appears, who believe that the librarian sits all day and far into the night in an easy chair reading the books that are most to his taste—poetry, or fiction, or travel, or philosophy, or philology, as the case may be. If any such desire to get charge of a public library they had better consult Mr. Cowell. He will make them wiser, and perhaps sadder, men. They will be astonished to learn that a librarian has other duties besides "reading the books at his command and seeing they are not stolen." He will do these things if he be a competent and conscientious man; but he will do much more. A lover of books, he must not merely have a deep regard for their contents—though such affection is obviously very important—but a tender solicitude for their outsides. He must "see them housed, clothed, and cared for in a proper manner"—in fact, look to their welfare as if they were members of his own family. Nor is that all. Not only is it incumbent upon him to read and tenderly care for everything in the shape of a printed book, he must be an expert in prices and editions, and know all about publishers and booksellers. Further, he should be able "to catalogue scientifically, whether on the dictionary plan, the *catalogue raisonné*, or some other plan of recognized merit," and it will be of immense advantage to him to be acquainted with "several of the great

literary languages." Without such knowledge, as Mr. Cowell points out, he can never hope to make a proper entrance into the field of literature. Then, again, he will find it necessary to understand the mysteries "of book classification, of shelving and book arrangement, of bookbinding and the durability of various leathers and cloths." He should also know how to manage a committee, check tradesmen's accounts, and to perform various other important duties far too numerous to mention.

The qualifications at which we have hinted belong to the common librarian; the really brilliant and successful librarian must super-add others. Remembering that the institution over which he presides is primarily intended to promote education, he will do many things not prescribed in the rules, and bring qualities into play that can not be tried by examinations. He will always be on the watch for an opportunity to benefit those who come to him for books. A courteous and affable manner to rich and poor alike is essential; for, as Mr. Cowell says, a librarian who is brusque and disagreeable is more a hindrance than a help to any library. Though he is expected to be a "species of walking dictionary and encyclopædia," he ought to give information as modestly as if he knew nothing; and listen as patiently to the lisps of ignorance as to the assured opinions of erudition. He will be at everybody's beck and call, and when he is asked silly or irritating questions he will answer with the blandest of smiles. Clearly, the librarian's post is a trying one: for he has to know much and to serve many masters.

—THE highest price on record, £680, has been paid for two stamps—namely, a penny red and a twopenny blue of Mauritius of 1847, with the words "Post Office" on the left side. There are only two other specimens of these stamps known in England, both of which are in the Tapling collection in the British Museum. In the world there are some fourteen known copies in all, but they are in collections of the highest repute, such as those of Baron Rothschild, Le Comte de Ferrary, Dr. Legrand, etc., and are never likely to come into the market.

—THE first edition of "Don Quixote" was published in Madrid in 1605. Recently a collector in the City of Mexico while examining a pile of old books for sale in one of the remotest wards of the city came across one, but mistaking the date concluded it was not a first edition. Next day he discovered by reference to his library that the book was a genuine first edition. He went back to find the treasure, but it had been sold for waste paper in the interim, and could not be found. A few years ago a California book collector, it is said, bought at an old bookstall, in the same place, a first folio edition of Shakespeare, paying \$15 for a book worth thousands.



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